

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

140
YEARS
1852-1992



*Still Guided by
The Unseen Hand*



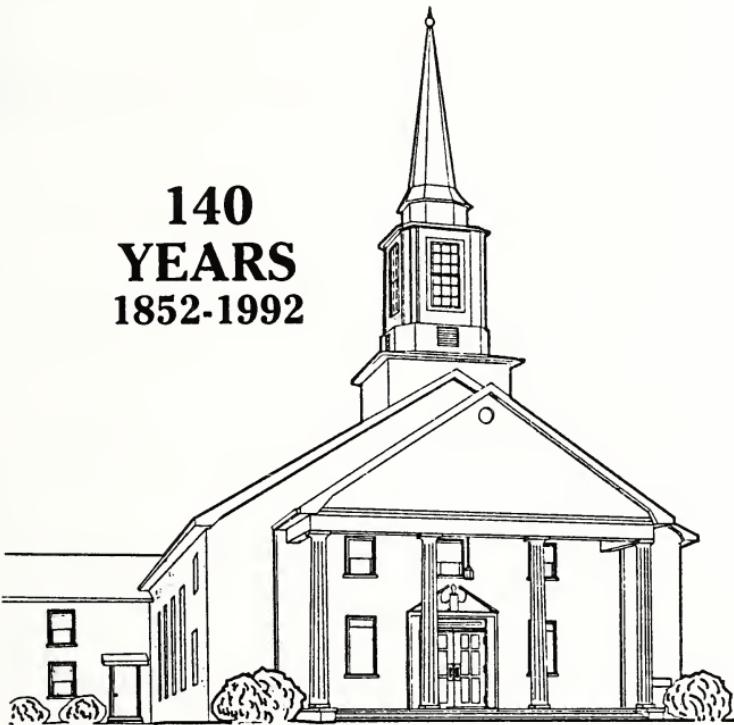
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BAPT
BX
6480
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B73
1992

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PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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RUTHERFORDTON, NORTH CAROLINA

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Preface

It would be impossible for any writer to condense into one book the complete history of a church which has worked together as the local “body of Christ” for one hundred and forty years. Many individuals have contributed to the effort, but records are limited and our minds are forgetful. We know that some details may not be exact but the committee has tried hard to present an accurate picture of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

We are enjoying today the fruits of the labors of those saints who have made sacrifices down through the years. It is our desire that as you read, you might see evidence of the guiding hand of God in the lives of those who have gone on before.

A church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is not just an organization but a living organism. It is a body, “and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body” (I Corinth-

ians 12:12). It would have been good if we could have paid tribute to each person who has been a part of this body. But, since that is not possible, may the written history of this church remind each of us that the body functions only as each individual member functions. And, that it is Christ, the head of the church, whom we wish to magnify.

History Committee members are David Owens; Christy Duncan; Doris Owens; church clerk, Becky McKelvey; Pastor Ron Cooper; and historian, Chivous Bradley.

I HISTORY

CHAPTER **1**

History and Development of the Pleasant Hill Community

“We have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land”

(Judges 18:9).

The community where Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is located is a picturesque area situated between Mountain Creek and Broad River southwest of Rutherfordton, North Carolina. The church is about one mile north of Highway 108, which follows closely the old trail used by Indians traveling from the mountains to the lowlands. The region is rich in history and tradition. Several early historians have

suggested that Hernando DeSoto passed through the area along the Indian trail via Hickory Nut Gap in 1540.

By the 1760's, settlers had begun to develop farms on the rich fertile bottom lands along the river. While this land was not inhabited by the Indians, it was a part of their important hunting grounds. Governor Tryon surveyed a line between Tryon Mountain and Warrior Mountain in what is now Polk County, toward Pinnacle Mountain to the north, in what is now McDowell County. This line drawn in 1776, passing just west of the community and crossing Broad River above the mouth of Knob Creek, placed the settlement in old Tryon County and on the western fringe of the frontier separating the settlers from the Cherokee lands.

The earliest white pioneers to become established in the area were probably John Morris, David Miller, and William Twitty, followed shortly by James Gray. Twitty's Ford on Broad River was a major reason why the community was a common route of travel. According to Griffin's Essays of North Carolina History, John Morris had made improvements on 200 acres of land in the community before receiving a grant for it dated March 2, 1775.

Fort McFadden had been built on Miller Creek in 1769 as a stockade to protect the whites from the Indians. After 1776, when Gen. Griffith Rutherford led an expedition against the Cherokee, the Indians never again posed a major threat to the county. The community became a part of the new county named for General Rutherford.

The community played another important part in history in 1780 when the Over Mountain men marched across Twitty's Ford and on to Green River where they rested. It was here that Colonel Lacey returned to the troops and encouraged them to go direct to Cowpens

through Sandy Plains. As a result, the victory was won at King's Mountain.

CHAPTER

Spiritual Development of the Pleasant Hill Community

It is likely that in addition to fireside and family altars in the home, some community Bible study and prayer meeting services were held prior to 1800. Bill's Creek Baptist Church had been organized near Chimney Rock about 1782, and Rev. Perminter Morgan had begun preaching at Mountain Creek by 1787.

Rev. Morgan, in his zeal to promote Baptist teachings, had hoped to stop the impact that Rev. Daniel Asbury was having in Rutherford County. He is said to have brought Asbury before Justice of the Peace Jonathan Hampton in 1789 and charged him with preaching with no authority whatsoever to do so. Up to this time, no Methodist Church had been established in the county.

Mr. Hampton is quoted by Nancy Ferguson in the Rutherford County Heritage Book as having replied, "If Rev. Asbury makes the people no worse, the probability is he makes them better, so I will release him and let him try it again."

Bishop Francis Asbury, another Methodist, preached in the Pleasant Hill area in the early 1800's and recorded in his journal that on Saturday, October 4, 1806, he "crossed Green and Broad Rivers to attend a meeting in the woods in Rutherford County. I preached on the Sabbath on Psalm 51:8-11, and on Monday at 8 o'clock in the morning on I John 1:6-7. It was a moving season. I made my lodging with Brother Driskell's on Sunday night . . ." Asbury preached another sermon in the community on November 6, 1808. "On Friday we descended the heights of Cooper's Gap to our friend David Dickey's; fasting and the labor of lowering ourselves down from the mountain top had made us feeble. On the Sabbath . . . I preached from Matthew 7:5; exhortation followed, and Brother Boehm ended our Sabbath labours by preaching at night, when there was a considerable move."

The power of the Holy Spirit in those Methodist camp meetings begun a few years before 1800 had given great impetus to the development of group worship and especially to Methodism in the area. Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians attended the camp meetings together. David Dickey, whose home was on Maple Creek, and David Gray became very active in the camp meetings, and by 1825, Gray's Chapel had been organized just south of Broad River from the place where Asbury held that meeting in the woods in 1806. The Baptists made slow progress, and the Presbyterians lost Knob Creek Church to the Methodist movement.

CHAPTER

3

Baptist Beginnings in the Pleasant Hill Community

Mountain Creek Church remained the lone outpost for those of the Baptist persuasion in this community for a number of years, and it is not likely that many of them attended the services there because of distance and hardships of travel. It was 1834 before another Baptist Church was organized within reasonable travel distance of the community. The Shiloh Church was constituted in April that year under the preaching of Rev. Joab Wilkie. Shiloh is about nine miles to the southeast, and the waters of both Mountain Creek and Cleghorn Creek had to be crossed to attend services there. There is no evidence that the citizens of the area southwest of Rutherfordton from Mack (formerly known as Fort McFadden) to Twitty's Ford

became active in any Baptist Church during this period of history.

By the 1840's, several families with an interest in Baptist doctrine had become established in the area. Names such as Taylor, McFadden, Owens, Baker, Lynch, Hill, Walker, Hodge, Sane, Keeter, Green, Griswold and others were included in this group. While many families in the county were leaving worn-out farms for new land in Tennessee and other western areas, Rutherfordton and the rural area to the southwest was prospering. The Green River Baptist Association had been formed in 1841 and a period of revival and spiritual growth had begun among the Baptists.

The names of Berryman Hicks and Drury Dobbins had become well-known—so great was their popularity as ministers. The impact these two great Baptist preachers had on the area cannot be overstated. A group of dynamic young preachers had emerged and had begun to evangelize the area during the 1840's. Since these men also served as pastor of one or more Baptist churches, in addition to holding special evangelistic services, they were referred to as elders. Elders Jimmy Webb, Wade Hill, William Harrill, Joab Wilkie, Dove Pannell, and Bailey Bruce, among others, had a great influence upon the growth of the Baptist Churches.

Mr. E. L. Taylor, who had held meetings in his home for the furtherance of the Gospel and the spiritual well-being of the community, led several men to begin meeting on his farm around 1850 for outdoor worship services and prayer meetings. The state and county had entered a period of prosperity, and a decision had been made to build a school if the district would furnish a building, guarantee 50 students, and raise \$20 in taxes. The need for

education was so great that Christians, regardless of their doctrinal views, and non-Christians alike, soon raised the tax money and built a log school building just northwest of the present church grounds on land now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Koone. This is likely when the community first came to be known as Pleasant Hill, because the school was just at the foot of the wooded hill where the men met to worship and pray. Probably some hope began to build in their minds that such cooperation could some day result in the organization of a Baptist Church in the community.

In 1851, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Taylor became charter members of the First Baptist Church in Rutherfordton. This brought a Baptist congregation closer to the Pleasant Hill community than ever before, but it was still difficult for residents of the area to attend services in town because of muddy roads and Mountain Creek, which was sometimes impossible to cross. Mr. Taylor was able to persuade Rev. J. M. Webb of the great need of a church in the area southwest of town. Rev. Webb resigned as pastor in Rutherfordton and began to preach for those interested in a church for the Pleasant Hill community.

According to an entry on the records of Harmony Grove Baptist Church of McDowell County on May 22, 1852, their pastor and a deacon were requested to constitute a church at Pleasant Hill in Rutherford County on July 3, 1852. Harmony Grove is located in Nebo Township about eight miles southeast of Marion. Their pastor at the time was Rev. Joseph Carson Grayson, who was almost two years younger than Rev. Webb and perhaps his very closest friend. They had served together as leaders in the Green River Association since it was formed.

The first house of worship was soon constructed of hand-hewn logs on the site set aside by E. L. Taylor. The

log church building was in what is now the main cemetery, not far from the graves of Rev. and Mrs. Taylor. According to the minutes of the Green River United Baptist Association of 1852, the Association convened at Mt. Vernon and received a newly constituted church called Pleasant Hill into the union. Elder J. M. Webb represented the new church as pastor with E. L. Taylor and R. Baker as delegates. O. P. Taylor and E. M. Lynch were also instrumental in the early development of the church. Since the church records for those early years are not available, we surmise that while Mr. Baker was church clerk, the Taylors and Mr. Lynch were the first deacons.

CHAPTER **4**

The Church Faces Obstacles but Perseveres

Pleasant Hill Church started out with a membership of twenty and received a total collection of ninety cents that first year. The congregation had a dynamic pastor who was well-respected in the county and state. The young church had a lot of enthusiasm and began to make an impact on the community. Rev. Webb shared that excitement and labored with zeal to bring souls to Jesus and into His church. After about a year, Rev. Webb became ill and died before the church was two years old.

For a few years the church made slow progress, holding services only once a month and sometimes less often. Rev. Henry Culbreth gave leadership for almost three years and Rev. A. J. Cansler for one year. These were times of material progress and educational advance-

ment. If times had remained as good for the next twenty-five years as they had been for the past six, much could have been accomplished.

The recorded history of the church for the next three decades is sketchy at best. According to historians of Mountain Creek and Bill's Creek Baptist Churches, Elders William Harrill, W. H. Logan, and Washington Haynes served Pleasant Hill during these tumultuous years before, during, and after the Civil War. E. L. Taylor, himself, surrendered to the ministry and served as pastor for several years.

The union declared war on the seceded states April 15, 1861, and North Carolina seceded from the Union on the 20th. Of course, most of the able-bodied young men from the community volunteered for service in the Confederate Army. Among these was Robert Taylor, who gave his life for the cause of the Confederacy. This may have had an influence on his father, Rev. E. L. Taylor, to commit himself to preaching the Gospel.

Although the war itself tended to strengthen and deepen men's spiritual lives, it also prevented, for the time being, the development of the Baptist denomination and the local church. Williams' History of Baptists in North Carolina reported that in the larger towns Baptist congregations "scarcely held their own," while in the rural communities many were entirely disintegrated.

Rev. Washington Haynes, who was staff chaplain of the 16th Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers, served Pleasant Hill, Mountain Creek, Round Hill, and Camp Creek during the mid-1860's. Although he was only able to visit occasionally during the war, his leadership probably gave a great deal of stability to the church during these

chaotic and stagnant times when many rural churches closed their doors.

Church minutes for the years before 1880 are not available, and it is a mystery what became of them. It is possible that some of them were carried off by Union raiders during the last days of the Civil War. Good records may not have been kept during Reconstruction, or some of the events may have been so unpleasant that the books were just not preserved. It is certain that citizens of the Pleasant Hill Community during the years from 1865 until 1871 would have preferred to forget the events that took place then.

On April 20 and 21, 1865, General A. C. Gillem from Tennessee, a "home Yankee" under Stoneman's command, swept Rutherfordton and the countryside of Pleasant Hill and Union Communities. His troops plundered homes and other community buildings, taking horses, carriages, clothing, and supplies of every kind. He then continued into Hendersonville through Howard's Gap. One of Colonel Palmer's Union soldiers, upon entering Rutherfordton on April 24, wrote that the Tennesseans stole everything they could carry off and even took the rings from ladies' fingers. Soldiers of Palmer's Brigade were so amazed at the destruction practiced by Gillem's command that the sympathy they once felt for the loyal Tennesseans was rapidly being transferred to the enemy.

It is no wonder that many Confederate soldiers, upon returning home, harbored ill feelings toward the local Union sympathizers who had been against secession, and in many cases had joined ranks with the secret "Red String League," which became closely allied with the Radical Party led by G. W. Logan after the war. These

Confederate veterans and other well-meaning Conservatives were not willing to give an inch to Radicalism.

With the appointment of Judge Logan to the Superior Court, and later with his call for the imposition of martial law in Rutherford County in 1871, came such corruption that a good many of the young men taking grain to market in South Carolina were easily persuaded to affiliate with the Klan. These Klan members were, almost to a man, from respectable Conservative families. It is not known if any of these were members of Pleasant Hill Church, but Randolph Shotwell recorded Klan activities in the Pleasant Hill Community in 1871, and it is certain that they found sympathy from some church members.

The Invisible Empire became a quasi-political party but was so loosely organized that no one had authority over the small groups. The result was more bitterness and, except for the will of God, it is not likely that any church could have survived. No doubt, many tears were shed and many prayers were prayed by the godly saints of the Pleasant Hill Church during these terrible days of fear and uncertainty.

CHAPTER

5

The Church Begins to Move Forward

During these tough times, E. L. Taylor, Decatur Lancaster, C. B. Justice, and J. T. McFaddin gave pastoral leadership to the church.

In 1870, the Baptist State Convention decided that “a vigorous Corresponding Secretary must be put into the field without delay,” and elected Rev. James Dunn Hufham, under whose efficient and inspiring leadership “order was brought out of chaos, and the Convention once more started an upward and onward career.” Dr. Hufham apparently saw that Pleasant Hill was a church which loved God and had weathered the storm. As a traveling church planter and church growth worker, he showed an interest in Pleasant Hill over the next few years.

On May 29, 1870, the first Sunday School was organized at Pleasant Hill. Sunday School met each Sunday from 8:00 until 11:00 a.m. The school was conducted by E. L. Taylor, B. Hill, Edward Foster, John Toms, and J. T. McFaddin. The Sunday School grew slowly but often had a greater attendance than the once-a-month worship services. The church reported a total of only 28 members in 1872.

Rev. H. D. Harrill was called as pastor of the church in 1878 and served for approximately ten years. Much to the credit of his leadership and spirit-filled preaching, the church grew to a membership of 131 by 1887. This meant that the church had dramatically outgrown the little log building, and the fellowship began to think and pray about building a larger meeting house.

Perhaps because regular attendance at worship services and at business conferences had not been given the place of importance it deserved in years past, the membership reaffirmed the original Church Covenant and adopted a set of Rules of Order for the church in 1881. Church discipline was the main order of business in many conferences over the next 20 years. While there was sometimes disagreement over the proper course of action in discipline, the object of discipline seemed to be to bring about reconciliation. Church growth certainly did not seem to suffer during this era.

CHAPTER

6

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the LORD Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

CHAPTER



Rules of Order for Pleasant Hill Church

Approved 1881

Rule 1st To assemble together at every stated meeting such as monthly or quarterly—any male member failing to attend such meetings shall send their excuse by some member OR TO APPEAR AT THE NEXT MEETING AND RENDER THE CAUSE THEREOF THEMSELVES.

Rule 2nd Every meeting for business shall be opened with prayer either by the moderator or someone he shall appoint.

Rule 3rd No motion shall be debated unless seconded; no member shall speak more than twice on the same motion without special leave of the church.

Rule 4th Every question shall be decided by the living voice and the majority rule IN ALL CASES EXCEPT FELLOWSHIP WHICH SHALL BE UNANIMOUS.

Rule 5th During hours of business all private conversation, walking across or out of house without permission of the moderator, shall be deemed a breach of order.

Rule 6th Inasmuch as the Word of God positively forbids playing and dancing, any member being guilty of the same shall be dealt with at the discretion of the church.

Rule 7th It is the deliberate judgment of this church that, duty and safety abide, requires all Christians to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage and from making, buying or selling such liquors as a beverage.

Rule 8th No church member is to take any strange thing in hand to act or do without first consulting the church or some leading elder for advice.

Rule 9th Further note that all the members of the church shall bear their portionable part of the church expenses such as the Lord's table, the pastor's salary, and the poor—such as are not the poor themselves—and any other expenses of the church.

Rule 10th The members are to be subservient to the church as our Gospel orders, and a minister is not to go beyond the motion allowed to admin-

ister the institution of matrimony to either saint or sinner.

Rule 11th Further note that all public controversies existing between church members as touching their affairs is to be brought into the church and abide the church's decision—for church members may not go to law one with another.

Rule 12th And again as touching private grief; the grieved person is not to disclose so as to make the matter public but only to the offender, except the matter be difficult. In such a case, they may consult with an elder for advice how to proceed.

Rule 13th Of church dealings: all matters of the church such as are not made public are not to be spoken of before the world, lest sinners should stumble over the infirmities of the saint and the cause of God be dishonored.

Rule 14th And also, persons having an impression to preach the Gospel shall first be under the hearing of the church and wait for their decision before they shall go further in a public way of preaching, and, if the church forbids, he must desist.

Rule 15th And further note if any members shall withdraw themselves from the Lord's table at or in the time of communion, they shall show the church the cause. If tolerated, well. If not, they must abide the decision of the church.

(Uppercase portions of #1 and #4 added July 1890. These rules were transposed into the new books of the church at least until 1932).

CHAPTER

8

1891 Membership List

MALE MEMBERS

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
January 1891

M. D. Hill
J. M. Taylor
Elias Griswold
B. Hill
C. E. Hill
James Griswold
David Owens
John Owens
R. S. Owens
O. H. Hill
T. C. Hill
G. R. Hill

FEMALE MEMBERS

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
January 1891

Cynthia McFaddin
Narcissus Hill
Ila Hill m. Owens
Sarah Hill
L. E. Hill m. Phillips
M. J. Hill
Siller Hill
L. Z. Hill
Mamie Hill m. Guffey
M. N. Davis
Mary Hodge
I. W. Hodge
L. E. Hodge m. Taylor

W. I. Hill	N. J. Hodge
Henry Hodge	Jane Griswold
J. A. Hodge	Mary Griswold m. Cordelle
J. L. Hodge	Myra Griswold
N. L. Walker	Betty Griswold m. Hill
E. C. Keeter	Elizzie Pope
Baxter Jones	Elizabeth McFaddin
John Shehan	C. A. McFaddin
W. E. McDade	Elizabeth Taylor
Wesley Shehan	M. J. Griswold m. Murphy
J. M. Walker	M. A. McFaddin
W. M. Copeland	Loney Copeland
George Copeland	Clomensia Copeland
O. P. Taylor	D. Davis
W. L. McFaddin	Belle Davis
B. F. Pope	Alice Hill
F. Sims	Cansas Griswold
Sid Sims	Carry McDade m. Lewis
John Sane	Maggie Owens
Tom Ferree	Maggie Hyder
M. L. McDade	Lula Bailey
O. E. Wilkins	Jane McDade
Andy Benard	Nancy Shehan
Bill Ledford	S. M. Ferree
W. W. Ledford	Sallie Sane
William Camp	Allie Ledford
Elium Mathis	Louisa Allen
Edmon Bishop	S. E. Owens
C. C. Owens	R. L. Owens
W. M. Mathis	Marget Owens
Elbert Hill	M. E. Shehan
Joseph Owens	Laura Owens m. Price
	E. L. Mitchell
	Mary Owens
	Julie Scoggins
	Mary R. Owens
	L. L. Bishop (Hambrick)
	Candy (Cansas) Owens

CHAPTER

The Church Extends its Ministry to the Piedmont Community and Builds a New House of Worship at Pleasant Hill

Rev. C. B. Justice returned as pastor in 1889 and provided dynamic leadership for the next six years. Pastor Justice was a strong believer in evangelism through Sunday School, and he had been appointed Chairman of the Board of Sunday School Work in the Green River Association that year. It did not take long to get the Sunday School at Pleasant Hill growing, and the young

people in the Piedmont Community showed a great deal of interest.

The Piedmont area is located on the northeast side of Mountain Creek and was increasing rapidly in population. Some of the families had already become members of Pleasant Hill Church, but attendance was difficult for them because of distance and having to cross the sometimes swollen waters of the creek. So, in 1892 a branch of the Pleasant Hill Sunday School was extended to the Piedmont School House. Over 100 students and teachers were enrolled, and Mr. A. L. Rucker was named superintendent.

1892 was probably one of the most eventful years in the history of the church. Attendance continued to overflow the log building, and the decision was finally made to build a more modern and adequate church building.

In September, a committee was appointed. The committee consisted of Lee Taylor, R. S. Owens, and M. D. Hill. They recommended in October that the new building should be a frame structure 52 feet long, 34 feet wide, and having a ceiling height of 14 feet. In December, A. P. Hill and C. W. Owens were added to the committee, and a tentative decision was made to build the church just to the right of Rev. J. T. McFaddin's grave. This would have placed the second church building almost exactly where the present brick building is located.

However, in February, the church adopted a resolution to "build the new house just beyond the old one." A little more than a year later, in the summer of 1894, the new church was completed. John Sane and J. M. Walker had replaced A. P. Hill and C. W. Owens on the committee. The dedication service was held July 1, 1894. Rev. C.

B. Justice was pastor, and Dr. J. D. Hufham preached the first sermon in the new building.

CHAPTER

10

Minutes of the Dedication Service for Second Church Building

July 1, 1894

The Baptist Church of Christ at Pleasant Hill met this day to dedicate their new house of worship to the service of God. The church joined in singing, "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood." Elder H. D. Harrill led in prayer; Elder J. D. Hufham preached from Rev. 5:8 on the subject of "Justification." After the reading of and adoption of the following instrument, the prayer of dedication was led by Dr. Hufham.

"Profoundly grateful to Almighty God for His wonderful goodness and mercy to us as a church in the years that have gone by and for the present mercies that environ us today, realizing the fact that all that has been accomplished either in the increase and development of our membership or in the building of this house—we ask this entire audience to join us in a song and prayer of thanksgiving to our God for the wonderful grace bestowed on us, putting into our hearts the purpose and into our hands the means to build this house that we this day dedicate to His service—we take this occasion to tender to those not members of this church who have so nobly contributed to the building of this house our thanks therefor. We forget not the Father by and through whose labours this church was established and her first house of worship built, for from this beginning of former years has grown up under God all that we now see and enjoy as the representatives of His and so far as we know the only Saviour of those who first conceived the idea and extended the purpose of building the Lord God a house in this community. We would specially mention and invoke God's richest blessings on Elder E. L. Taylor, Brother O. P. Taylor, and Mr. E. M. Lynch upon whose provident work we are building and upon which we trust coming generations shall continue to build until this church shall fill all this land and the regions beyond with the glory of the Lord. Having been enabled to complete this house and to provide for the cost thereof so that there is now no cost on the same.

"Therefore resolved that we now join Brother Hufham in a prayer dedicating this house to God, giving it to Him to be used exclusively and only for His service as a house in which He is to be worshipped and the ordinances to be

kept and the work pertaining to a regular Missionary Baptist church is to be done and the Gospel, as believed and preached by the regular Baptist churches and preachers is to be proclaimed, the cross of Christ held up, and salvation through Jesus Christ alone is to be proclaimed to a lost world."

On motion, the foregoing preamble and resolution were unanimously accepted to be spread on the church book. This July 1, 1894.

Dr. Hufham preached again in the afternoon. There was some elegant music led by Brother C. M. Lewis of Mountain Creek and other special singers. Altogether, the services were helpful and edifying and the day one long to be remembered on account of the unity and oneness of spirit that characterized the people of God and the manifest presence of God.

"Whereas our beloved pastor Rev. C. B. Justice has been, by his untiring efforts and spirituality, the instrument in God's hands of awakening the membership of the church to their duty in making needed sacrifices in erecting this house which we propose to dedicate to the service of Almighty God this day;

Resolved that the thanks of this church are due and are hereby tendered to our pastor for the unselfish and pure motives that have all along been apparent during the erection of our new house of worship.

Resolved 2nd that we shall forever be grateful under God for the blessing of such a pastor at such a time, and shall ever pray Heaven's richest gifts on him and his so long as they shall live to bless others."

L. M. Taylor
J. M. Walker
M. D. Hill
John Sane
R. S. Owens
Committee
July the 1st, 1894

The old log church house was moved across Broad River by Mr. J. L. Taylor to be used as a farm building. It served its purpose well until 1926 when NC Highway 108 was constructed and surveyed right through the center of the building. At that time, it was torn down and burned.

CHAPTER ***11*** —

The Church Enters the Twentieth Century

By 1895, the church not only had a new building but also seemed to take on a new life. Two young men of the church had recently surrendered to preach and had been licensed. They were J. M. Taylor and John M. Walker. A new generation of leadership in the church wanted to call a young preacher by the name of Davis, but he was completing his education. The church could not, at first, make a decision on a pastor but finally agreed to call Rev. A. J. Hensley. Being an elderly man and not very well-educated, he agreed to serve only as “assistant pastor” until Rev. Davis could finish his schooling in July, 1896. Rev. Davis did preach one sermon in July but was not called as

pastor. Brother Hensley exercised all the functions of pastor very well during his tenure.

About this time a change in church terminology became apparent. The title for ministers changed from Elder to Reverend, the position of called leader of the church changed from "supply" to "pastor," and representatives to meetings of the Association changed from delegates to messengers.

Rev. Marion Whiteside accepted the call as pastor in 1896 and served ably until he resigned in 1901. The church grew to a membership of 175 that year. During these years, the church had begun to support home and foreign missions on a regular basis. The church building had been painted. A. P. Hill had provided a deed for the lot on which the church building stood, and an organ had been purchased.

In 1902, Rev. C. B. Justice served as pastor of the church for the third time. He was seventy years of age, but he preached a revival meeting in August which lasted for eight days. As a result, many souls were converted, and the church was considerably moved by the Spirit. Twenty-one of those converted were baptized on August 25, 1902.

John M. Walker came as pastor for the next two years. He had grown up in Pleasant Hill Church, and the church had helped him with the expenses of his education for the ministry. He encouraged the church to make some repairs on the church, and a belfry was added. The remaining amount owed on the salary of the two previous pastors was finally collected and paid.

Rev. B. M. Hamrick was next to serve as pastor. He was a talented musician and played the organ as well as preached until 1907. The church received the bell for the steeple from the C M Bell Company of Hillsboro, Ohio at

a cost of \$29.50. The bell was used for many years to announce the start of each service and also to call men to dig graves when there had been deaths.

At the turn of the century, Round Hill Academy had been established in Union Mills. Pleasant Hill had contributed to the school and its Christian education program from the start. When the principal took a leave of absence for two years to attend Southern Seminary in order to finish his Master of Theology degree, Rev. J. W. Whitley was secured as principal of the school and accepted the call to serve Pleasant Hill as pastor. Thirty-four were baptized and a greater effort was made in missions giving during his service.

Over the next six years, the church had four different pastors. Rev. Barney Hamrick held a brush arbor meeting near the present location of Thompson Contractors on Miller Road in the fall of 1910. Many souls were saved, a large number of whom had attended the Sunday School at Piedmont. Fifty joined Pleasant Hill by baptism and sixteen by letter. This was a time of growth within the Green River Association. In November 1913 the pastor and deacons helped organize Green Hill Baptist Church, and, in May of 1914, the Piedmont Baptist Church was organized.

Most of those who joined the church as a result of the brush arbor meeting, and several others who lived near the new Piedmont Church, were dismissed to unite with that church. The Sunday School started there by Pleasant Hill in 1892 was now an active and growing church. The church sent pastor and deacons to Mountain View School on December 23, 1915, to help organize a church there.

Rev. Melrose Huntley became pastor of Pleasant Hill in 1916. He served through 1930 and returned five years

later to remain until his death. In terms of numerical growth, there has been no other time during the history of the church which would match the record during this period.

Until 1917, annual Memorial Day services had been the second Sunday in June. But beginning in 1918 the Memorial Day was changed to the second Sunday in May. This day had been set aside in 1914 as a National Mothers' Day and was also closest to the May 10 Confederate Memorial Day.

While Rev. Crawford Lynch was pastor, the Sunday School was emphasized. The highest recorded Sunday School attendance was August 13, 1933. Total number present was 157. Walker Harris was superintendent, and Miss Rena Mae Harris was secretary and treasurer.

Rev. Harley Phillips, a dynamic and evangelistic preacher came as pastor in 1938 but resigned in December. He appointed a pulpit committee which recommended Rev. N. B. Phillips, who was unanimously elected. He served for three fruitful years. The church obtained electricity in January 1939 and secured an insurance policy on the church building in 1940.

CHAPTER

12

Advance and Decline in the Spiritual Life of the Church

During the late thirties, the Holy Spirit was very real in the life of the church. Membership was about 250, and reference was often made in minutes of the church to a wonderful sermon preached by the pastor. As was traditional in the church, men sat on one side of the church and ladies on the other. During prayer time, before preaching services would begin, men met in the woods on one side of the building while women prayed on the other side.

Many services started with a time of shouting and praising God because of the moving of the Holy Spirit during prayer time. The deacons and other spiritual men

of the church sat in the Amen Corner and encouraged the pastor with many a heartfelt "Amen!"

Rev. R. L. Crawford was called as pastor about the time World War II broke out. No less than twenty-one young men from the community served their country in the war. This left the women, older men, and the children to tend the farms. It also meant greater participation by women in the work of the church. The ladies did a great deal of canning of fruit and vegetables for the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville. This project became popular with the Green River Association and continued at least through the 1950's.

Over the next few years, several business meetings were devoted to personal disputes among members. Rev. Crawford spent much time in prayer and worked to mediate the problems. By the end of the war, church membership stood at 150, and as men returned from war, many were hesitant to take a role in the work of the church.

Manufacturing plants in the county began to expand. Mechanization on farms caused several families to move to mill villages away from the church and community. Rev. Crawford resigned in July, 1946, and Rev. Pink White was called as pastor to serve through October, 1948.

Rev. James Chapman accepted the call to Pleasant Hill in November, 1948. The following March, the church voted to buy a used 1938 Chevrolet school bus for the purpose of transporting people to church. The bus proved to be useful but it was a burden to maintain. Rev. Chapman planned some trips for church groups which provided a lot of fellowship. One such trip included a picnic at Jump Off Rock and attendance at some sort of special Baptist meeting in Ashe County. It turned out to be

the wrong day for the meeting, but the trip was enjoyable, all the same.

During this time, the church voted to support the Baptist Hospital. In addition to having the financial report read, it began to be posted on the board quarterly. When Rev. Chapman resigned September 24, 1950, the church again had over 200 members.

When Rev. Paul Benfield came as pastor, one of the first business items was related to the poor condition of the old frame church building. A building committee had been appointed, and they could not agree that remodeling was the right thing to do. Some wanted to build a new church. The church had voted to remodel and finally decided in 1951 to move the old building back 25 feet, dig a basement, and add eight Sunday School rooms. It would be necessary to fix a cable to the church to keep it from leaning and moving off the new foundation.

The work turned out to cost more than twice what had been anticipated, but progress was made, and the church had a good spirit of cooperation. The pastor was only being paid \$80 per month, and the church voted to have services only twice a month rather than every Sunday as had been planned when Rev. Benfield accepted the call.

The church held an all-day service on the fourth Sunday in October, 1952. This was the Centennial Celebration for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. The men of the church prepared tables, the WMU was responsible for the meal, and Miss Ola Lovelace, Charles Taylor, and Mrs. E. H. Hill were responsible for publicity. Neighboring churches and all former members were invited. Rev. W. M. Whiteside preached, and a number of former pastors were on the program. This was probably the largest congreg-

gation to ever attend a service at Pleasant Hill. Some estimated that 350 people were in attendance.

The church installed gas heaters in the auditorium and Sunday School rooms. A new church bus was purchased. Mr. George Willie Green conducted a singing school the last week of February and the first week of March, 1954.

The church made steady progress during the time Rev. Benfield served the church. In March 1954, the pastor suggested that the church consider a new auditorium and a committee for memorial windows for the new auditorium. No action was taken.

While Rev. Benfield was pastor, the Sunday School picnic was started. Linnie Koone was WMU director and several of the ladies planned a picnic at Gladys White's home. The White family had a little picnic area near the branch. The ladies made their own chili, etc. Such a wonderful time was shared by the ladies that they invited the whole church to the next picnic. Several years later, the picnic was moved to Harmon Field at Tryon, and for the past few years it has been held at the Crowe Park in Forest City.

In September of 1954, Rev. Benfield again asked the church to be a full-time church and to assume responsibility for his annual support in the amount of \$2,400, so that he could devote full-time to being their pastor. When the church voted to continue to have preaching only twice a month and to pay him \$1,200 per year, Rev. Benfield announced that his resignation would be effective the second Sunday in October.

Rev. Ed White came as pastor of the church in January, 1955. The church voted to adopt an indefinite call of pastor as standing procedure of the church. Sunday night services were begun two times each month. The

church had some good revival meetings, and Rev. J. A. Leslie conducted singing schools much to the benefit of the choir.

The matter of a new church building again came up. In April of 1956, a committee began to plan, and a decision was made to build a new building at a cost of \$18,000 to \$20,000. Due to estimates for the building running over the proposed amount, and indecision about location of the choir, it was December before a plan was adopted which included a choir to one side of the pulpit.

Steady progress was made on the building, but there still seemed to be disagreement among the church members. The church bus was discontinued in November, 1957, and members were encouraged to provide transportation to those people who did not have a way to church.

Disapproval had been expressed by some of the members about use of the Vaughn songbooks and they said that only the Broadman Hymnals should be used. No decision was made, but it was clear that there were some hard feelings.

A decision was made to move the church bell once the new steeple was in place. Rev. White resigned in November, 1957. Work continued on the new building with a well having to be drilled and a new pump installed.

CHAPTER

13

The Church Moves Ahead With a Vision for Ministry

“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. . . . ”

Micah 4:2

As progress was made on the new sanctuary from December of 1957 through the following spring, the pulpit committee was also seeking God's will in the selection of a new pastor. Rev. N. B. Phillips, former pastor, contacted the committee and suggested they might want to hear Rev. J. E. Brock, who was attending Fruitland Bible Institute.

After the church met Rev. Brock and heard him preach in April, the pulpit committee recommended him to the church as pastor. He was elected on May 4, 1958. Only one dissenting vote was cast. The new church sanctuary was completed the following November.

The first service was held in the new building on November 30, 1958. Rev. Charles Stanley, presently pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, preached the dedicatory sermon. The old building continued to be used for Sunday School for eight more years.

Pleasant Hill Church began to see that much could be accomplished if the membership worked together and relied on the power of the Holy Spirit. The issue related to use of song books other than Hymnals was soon resolved in such a way that any Gospel songs could be used, but the Hymnals were to be the songbook for congregational singing. The church also voted for the pastor to serve full-time with preaching every Sunday beginning in April, 1959. The following year, Training Union was started each Sunday evening, and Prayer Meeting was begun on Wednesday evenings.

Matters of business decided upon over the next few years included the removal of concrete forms from the cemetery and the sowing of grass over all graves. The church voted to rotate deacons every three years but rescinded the action one month later and recognized the office of a deacon to be continual or indefinite as is the office of pastor. The church voted in 1965 to begin an envelope system for tithes and offerings so that a record of contributions would be available to any member who needed his or her totals.

Much material progress was made during the next several years. The educational wing and choir was added

to the present building in 1966. A rest room for men and one for ladies was also added. For the first time, the church would have a baptistry in the building. The original background for the baptistry was a Jordan River scene painted by Mr. Aulton Cole. The artist is a son-in-law of Mr. B. L. White, who had served as Pleasant Hill Church clerk in the early 1900's.

Mr. Thad Pendergrass, building contractor, paid for the materials and the labor involved in installing the baptistry scene. The first baptismal service in the baptistry was held April 17, 1966. Carol Sane and Boyce Taylor were the first members to be baptized in the baptistry.

During the next year, the basement was finished as a fellowship hall. With the total debt on the educational wing and fellowship hall being paid, a dedication service was held July 20, 1969. The parsonage was built in 1971.

Support for various mission causes received great emphasis during the decade of the sixties. The importance of world evangelization was established in the hearts of church members to the extent that most began to give liberally to mission causes. The Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings became annual events at Pleasant Hill. The church voted to give ten percent of all undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Missions Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Sometime later, the decision was made to contribute four percent of undesignated gifts to Green River Baptist Associational Missions.

The budget began to include funding for many local and state mission causes, including the Thermal Belt Baptist Youth Shelter and the Bible in the Classroom at Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School. The church also became a major sponsor of the Harvester Baptist

Mission in Singapore, headed by Rev. and Mrs. Cliff Hunnicutt.

Many wonderful revival services were held during the ministry of Rev. Brock. A number of members began to attend special annual services at Camp Zion in Myrtle, Mississippi, and the Blue Ridge Baptist Camp Meeting at Hendersonville, North Carolina. Preachers who conducted services at these camps were used on several occasions for revivals at Pleasant Hill. The G.A.'s and R.A.'s began to attend camp at the South Mountain Baptist Camp near Connelly Springs. Worship was enhanced and a spiritual renewal was evident in the church. By the mid-1970's a genuine spirit of love prevailed among the members.

During Preacher Brock's ministry, Russell Weaver, Bill Taylor, and Mark Hutchins were licensed to preach. Better participation in the choir was realized with David Owens as director. Church membership was 249 early in the ministry of Babe Brock and reached 263 before he retired. Some people referred to Rev. Brock as the "weeping prophet" because he often shed tears for the lost and unconcerned as he preached. The nickname "Babe", however, came from his younger days as a baseball player.

In 1983, the pastor developed an illness resulting from high blood pressure. Rev. Robert Biggerstaff, a member of the church, was elected associate pastor and worked closely with Rev. Brock for the next two years. In 1984, Sunday evening worship services were begun on a regular basis by Robert Biggerstaff. When Rev. Brock retired in May of 1985, Rev. Biggerstaff performed all functions of pastor for the next year.

The leadership of Preacher Biggerstaff helped hold the church together. This was a difficult time in the life of the church, since Rev. Babe Brock had been many of the

younger members' only pastor. The transition was easier because Rev. Robert Biggerstaff was such a part of the church. God's hand was evident in Robert coming to the church. He resigned as associate pastor when a new pastor was called in May, 1986.

Rev. Ron Cooper accepted the call as pastor at that time and is still faithfully serving at this date. He came from Memphis, Tennessee but is a native of Valdese, North Carolina.

Between 1986 and 1992, four young men out of the church have surrendered to preach. They are Donald Owens, Dean Hutchins, Dale Owens, and Shane Duncan. Seventy-five baptisms had been recorded through 1991 under the ministry of Rev. Cooper.

Total contributions have more than doubled since 1986. Additional improvements have been made to the parking area and to the church roof. The church auditorium has been completely renovated. The very beautiful sanctuary had chandeliers placed in honor of Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Brock and Mrs. Joy Cooper and in memory of Mr. Boyce Taylor, Mr. Hugh Lynch, Mr. Jim Seay, and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hill. The lovely entrance furniture was placed in memory of Mrs. Etta Shehan Hodge.

A radio program, "Into His Presence", was begun by Rev. Cooper in 1991. The program is now one hour in length and consists of the morning worship service recorded the previous Sunday. It is broadcast from 9:30 to 10:30 each Sunday morning over WWOL radio in Forest City, NC. The station is located at 780 on the AM dial.

The church has greatly increased missions giving so that more than \$30,000 went to mission causes in 1991. Christ for India has been placed in the budget. The pastor

traveled to India in 1991 as part of a mission team under the leadership of Dr. M. A. Thomas, founder and president of Christ for India. The church is providing funds to build a house of worship in Agra where two young men surrendered to plant a church while Rev. Cooper was preaching.

What blessings the future holds for the ministry of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is yet to be seen. There is certainly tremendous potential. The church has advanced greatly in her 140 years. There have been joyous and exciting times as well as times of hardship and near despair. This journey has been a walk of faith.

Based on the experiences of the past, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church can walk into the uncertainty of the future with a confident expectation—a hope sure and steadfast. The church knows a quiet assurance of victory . . . “still guided by the Unseen Hand.”

CHAPTER **14**—

Historical Highlights



Pastors Ed White, Paul Benfield, J.E. Brock

North Carolina Rutherford County

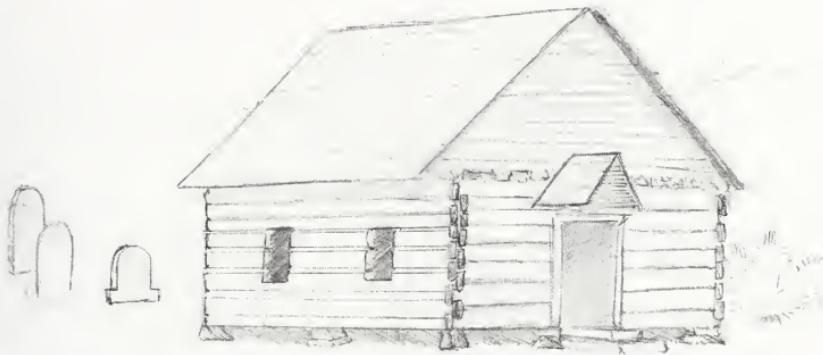
November 28th 1872

This is to certify we the undersigned Ministers of the gospel and Deacons of the United Baptist Church of Christ at the request of Pleasant Hill Church met and formed a Presbytery to examine Brother James T. McFaddin in reference to his qualification to the gospel Ministry and believing him to be sound and Chaste and called of God to the work have this day ratified the choice of his Church by the imposition of hands

Elders	Deacons
A. O. Lynch	{ Richard Whitehead Thomas Jones
A. McMaham	
E. S. Taylor	

Harmony Grove Church Book. 1852.

May 22 The church met in love. - A sermon was preached by J. C. Grayson. Opened a door for the reception of members. Appointed brethren J. C. Simmons and D. P. Simmon's delegate to the Union meeting at Round Hill, to appoint where the next Association shall be. Rec'd a request for our Elder J. C. Grayson Deacon A. H. Simmon's to attend at Pleasant Hill in Rutherford County on the 1st Saturday in July next to assist in the Constitution of a church.



Sketch by Christine A. Duncan. What the log meeting house built in 1852 probably was like.



Sketch by Christine A. Duncan. The frame church building erected in 1894.



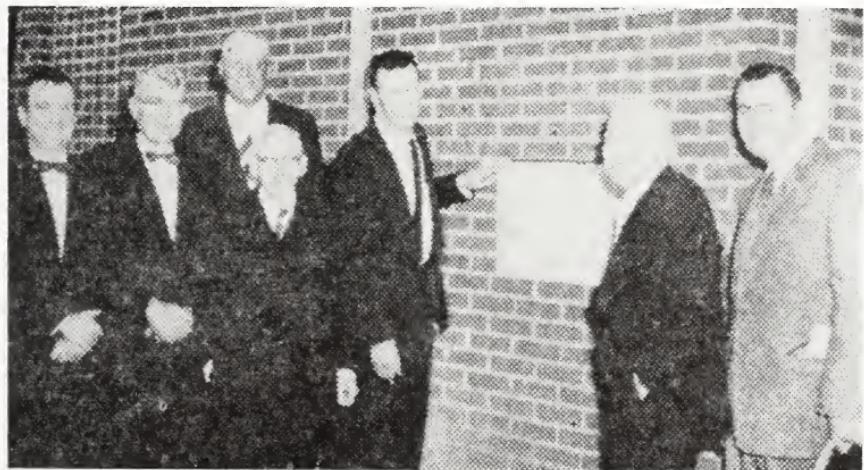
Pleasant Hill School House built about 1896 with Dr. Marion Whiteside as first teacher.



Rev. J.R. Chapman baptizing in the river at Twitty's Ford.



Rev. Henry Powell, Green River Associational Missionary, helping Thomasville Orphanage staff members load canned goods from Pleasant Hill.



Maurice Sane, Charles Taylor, John Koone, Dock Camp, Ras Hill, and P.P. Lail with Rev. Brock at laying of cornerstone in November, 1958.



Rev. N.B. Phillips



Second church building.



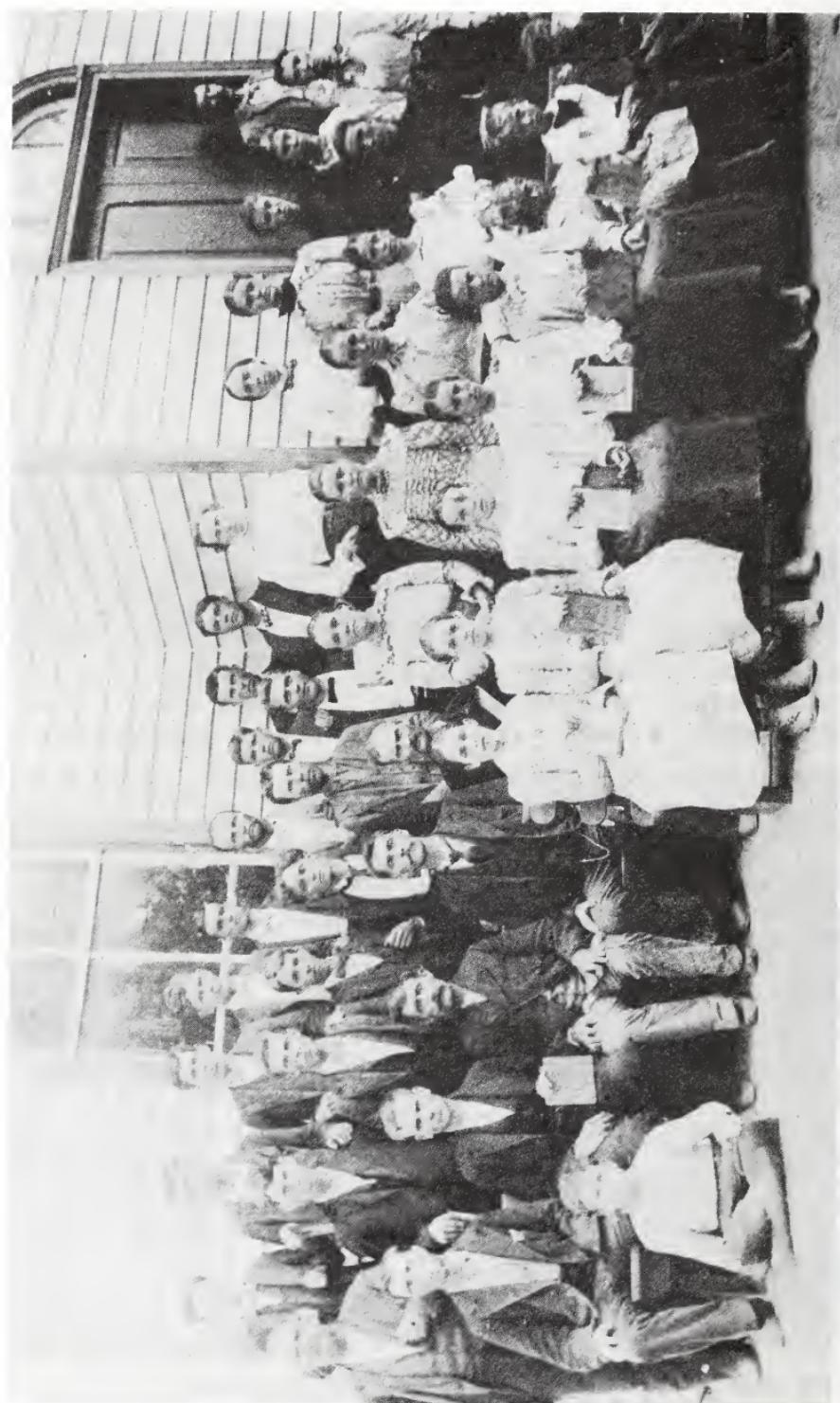
Singing school in 1939.



Ola Lovelace Sunday School Class: Darrell and Rebecca Benfield, Bobby and Jimmy Taylor, Wallace White, Clarence Koone, Doris and Ellen Sims, Nora and Mary Jo Lynch, Mary Sims, Bobby Garner, and Elwood Green.



First church bus. Linnie Koone with baby daughter Nancy.



Pleasant Hill Sunday School about 1899.



Grover Green and Ben Green with Lord's Acre for Missions.



George Hill and others making bricks for Piedmont church.



Deck Hensley, Claude Earley, Patrick Lail, Sidney Sims, and Curt Sims digging basement for Sunday School rooms under old church.



Vacation Bible School leaders 1958.



Christmas pageant 1958.



Junior choir — 1960 Christmas program.



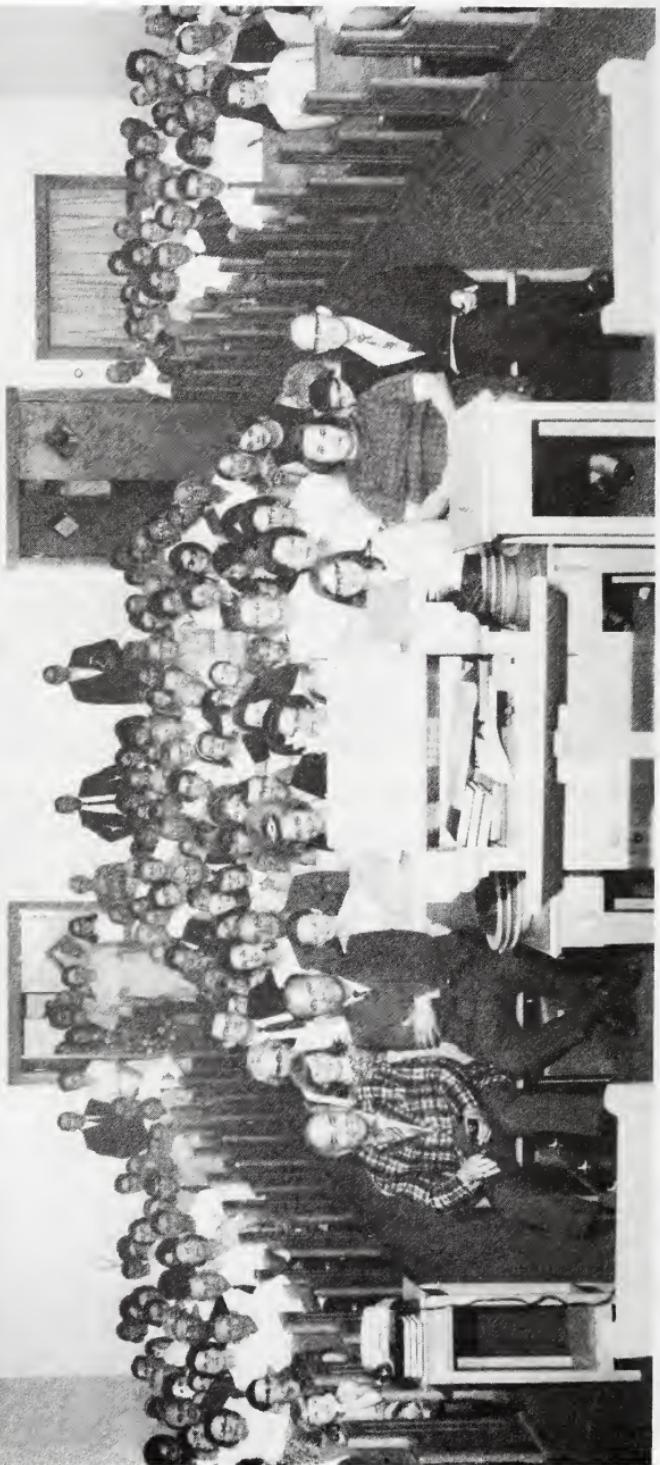
Beginners class — 1959-60. Mrs. John N. Camp, teacher.



Burning of the note for education wing and fellowship hall, 1969.



Rev. J.E. Brock, wife Mary, daughters Anne and Julie.



Revival service with Dr. Hyman Appleman.



Centennial celebration 1952.



W.C. Lynch, Pastor Paul Benfield, Dr. Marion Whiteside preaching at 100th Anniversary in 1952.



Pleasant Hill Church, January 1992.

II MEMORIAL WINDOWS

When the present sanctuary was dedicated November 30, 1958, the memorial windows were a part of the new structure. The windows had been placed in memory of fifteen different families or individuals. The windows are still beautiful and practical today. It is a blessing to study them and enjoy them. The windows depict the life and ministry of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, from His birth to the resurrection. It is interesting to think of those whose memory was honored by a window being placed in the church. This section of the church history gives a brief description of who these people were.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELLA CAMP HENSLEY

Given by her children: Clyde, Charles, Ralph, Ruby H. Dalton, and Junior.

Ella Jane Camp was born October 8, 1891. She was saved at the age of 14 and joined Pleasant Hill Church by baptism. She married Dexter Columbus Hensley and their children are Clyde, Charles, Ralph, Junior, Ellen, Mary, Emma H. Elliott, and Ruby H. Davis. Mrs. Hensley died April 8, 1953, and Deck outlived her by 28 years. The Hensley family is still active in the church today.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. J. D. WHITESIDE

Given by Mamie, Sarah W. Beason, and Bertha W. Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Whiteside came to Pleasant Hill by letter and were received in conference in June, 1901. They were very active in the church. Mr. Whiteside served as deacon, Sunday School teacher, and church clerk. Mrs. Whiteside served as president of WMS and taught youth Sunday School classes. They were faithful to the church for many years. Mr. Whiteside died March 28, 1932, and Mrs. Whiteside continued to work in the church as long as she was able. They had four children: Bertha W. Taylor, Sarah W. Beason, Mamie Whiteside, and Bryan Whiteside.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. D. D. NANNEY

Given by Mary Ann Durham, and the Edgar Nanney Family.

Drury Dobbins Nanney was married to Mary Elizabeth Justice. They lived above the Mountain Creek Bridge on Highway 108, not far from the church. While family tradition holds that he was affiliated with the church before the Civil War and helped hew the logs for the first church while he was very young, his name first appears in the existing church records in the year 1901. He was elected to serve on the pulpit committee that year. He later served as Sunday School superintendent and as a deacon. Mr. Nanney is buried at Pleasant Hill.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. M. D. HILL

Given by Oliver, Wash, Jesse, and Fred.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Devault Hill were faithful members of Pleasant Hill church. Their names are on the June, 1890, church roll, and it is not known how long they had been members but probably for several years before that time. Mr. Hill served as a deacon, Sunday School superintendent, and on several committees. Because they lived in the Piedmont community, they were part of the group that moved their membership to Piedmont Baptist Church when it was organized in 1914. The John Sims family,

Arthur Sims family, Bruce Wilson family, David Owens family, and Danny Owens are descendants who are church members.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. C. C. LOVELACE, BOSTON, AND ARSOLA

Given by Mary Anne L. Green, Leona L. Griswold, Ola Lovelace.

Clarence Cicero and Mary E. Caroline Flack Lovelace were very active in the Pleasant Hill Church. C. C. Lovelace served as choir director, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and represented the church at Associational meetings. Mrs. Lovelace was active in the WMS. Boston and Arsola were their sons. Mary Anne, Leona, and Ola were daughters. Arsola was an ordained minister. He also served as president of Gardner-Webb College, and Dean of High Point College and Wingate College. He taught some classes at the schools. Garner Hensley and her family as well as Beth Sane and her family are descendants. Ben, Woodrow, and Stella Green are also grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Lovelace.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. C. C. SANE

Given by their children: Fonzybee, Annie Bell S. Lewis, Walter, Lee Mack, Greysham, Mrs. Ozier Sane, Cleo S. Lewis, Mary S. Koone, and Aletha S. Little.

C. C. Sane was an active member of the choir, and he also represented the church at Associational meetings. He and several members of his family taught in the Sunday School. Frank Sane and his family as well as the family of Chris Sane are descendants still connected with the church.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN F. SHEHAN

Given by Lena, Laura S. Hodge, Byrd S. Gurley, Solon, Etta S. Hodge and Willie Mae.

John Franklin and Mary Ella Hill Shehan were active church members. John accepted the responsibility of carrying water from the spring for the congregation. He also represented the church at Associational meetings on several occasions. Their six daughters were Maude, Lena, Laura, Byrd, Etta, and Willie Mae. The four sons were Solan, Otis, Moran, and George. Maude sang in the choir. Neither she nor Lena were ever married. Etta Shehan Hodge played the church organ. Willie Mae S. Pintuff is the only surviving child. She was mainly responsible for purchasing the window. John Shehan died in 1933 at the age of 71. He and his wife, as well as four of the children,

are buried in Pleasant Hill cemetery. John and Ella's great grandson, Martin Shehan, and his wife Rose Ann are members of Pleasant Hill today.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. NICK CAMP

Given by Frank, Dock, Max, Dora, and Bena.

Nick and Ellen White Camp were well-respected farmers in the Pleasant Hill community. They lived near Broad River across from the place commonly known as the Potter Bottom. They raised a large family of six boys who were Robert Lee, George, Will, Dock, Frank, and Max. They also had six girls: Ella C. Hensley, Laura C. Pridmore, Fannie, Eva, Dora, and Bena. Will, Frank, Laura, Fannie and Ella were saved and joined the church between 1890 and 1900. Most of the other children joined the church later. The families of grandsons Junior, Charles, and Clyde Hensley are still church members at Pleasant Hill.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. HENRY H. LYNCH

Given by Bob and Hubert Lynch.

Henry Harrison and Mary Ellen Gilbert Lynch began to attend Pleasant Hill Baptist Church about 1912. Mrs. Lynch joined the church in 1916. Two daughters, Bessie and Fannie, had been saved and baptized into the church in 1914, while Bob joined by baptism September 8,

1917. Bessie celebrated her ninetieth birthday March 19th in Sunny Side Retirement Home. Other children include Hubert, Ab, and Woodrow. Maude died as an infant. Henry Lynch was a son of Mr. E. Matt Lynch who was a charter member and deacon of Pleasant Hill Church. Several descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Lynch are still members of the church at this time.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARTHA C. DALTON

Given by Ella D. Epley, Linnie D. Koone, Isa D. Connor, Marion and Vollie Dalton.

Martha and Francis Dalton were originally members of Bill's Creek Baptist Church. They were married by Rev. W. H. Logan who served as pastor of that church for more than 28 years and also served for a short while as pastor at Pleasant Hill. After "Frank" was killed by a car in 1932, "Matt" moved to Pleasant Hill. She joined the church by letter in March, 1936, and became a faithful member. She had eleven children, three of whom are buried along with her in the Pleasant Hill cemetery. Mrs. Linnie Koone, a daughter, is a member of the church presently.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. G. D. KOONE

Given by Hicks, Laura K. White, Dovie K. White, and John.

Dallas Koone was a school teacher in the Piney Knob community where he fell in love with Sarah Haynes, one of his pupils, and they were married. They had nine children, one of whom died as a young child and was buried in the Koone cemetery in Gilkey. All of the others attended Pleasant Hill at some time and were members. G. D. and Laura H. Koone joined the church when they moved to the community about 1900 and remained faithful in attendance the rest of their lives. John Koone, their son, is an active member now.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. O. P. TAYLOR

Given by their children: Lee, W. O., John, Solon, Mary T. Lewis, Mattie T. Wells, Octavia T. Ponder.

Based on recognition given at the dedication service for the second church building on July 1, 1894, Mr. Taylor was active in organizing the church in 1852. He appears to have been one of the first deacons along with E. L. Taylor and E. M. Lynch. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor must have been active in the work of the church, and early baptismal services were held in Broad River near their home. The

John Taylor family and the Glen Hill family are descendants still active in the church.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. J. M. TAYLOR AND FAMILY

Given by Daisy T. Carver, Burke T. Spurlin.

Mr. J. M. Taylor represented the church at the Association in 1877. He was licensed to preach by Pleasant Hill in 1881 and also served as Sunday School Superintendent in 1887 and for several years thereafter. He was also chairman of the building committee for the second church building completed in 1894. There are no known descendants in Pleasant Hill Church at the present.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. R. W. DAVIS

Given by Mary D. Green, Addie D. Wilkie, and Pauline D. Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis were members in the early 1900's. Mr. Davis served on several committees and was elected Treasurer in February, 1911. Descendants attending Pleasant Hill at the present time include the Sam Moore, Sr. family and the Sam Moore, Jr. family.

IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. F. A. SIMS

Given by daughter, Doshie S. Owens.

Ferd Sims and wife were members of Pleasant Hill Church as early as 1890. He was a deacon at one time. He apparently moved away and then moved his letter back to Pleasant Hill in 1920. The Arthur Sims family, John Sims family, David Owens family, Bruce Wilson family, and Danny Owens are descendants who are present members of Pleasant Hill Church.

III PASTORS

The following men have fulfilled the duties of pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church during the past 140 years:

James M. Webb
Henry Culbreth
A. J. Cansler
William Harrill
W. H. Logan
Washington Haynes
E. L. Taylor
Decatur Lancaster
C. B. Justice
J. T. McFaddin
C. C. Case
H. D. Harrill
Albert J. Hensley
W. Marion Whiteside
John M. Walker
Barney M. Hamrick
J. W. Whitley

James R. Whiteside
Barney P. Jackson
Wade F. Sinclair
G. A. Martin
Melrose M. Huntley
C. L. Taylor
David J. Hunt
W. Crawford Lynch
Harley L. Phillips
N. B. Phillips
R. L. Crawford
E. Pink White
James R. Chapman
Paul E. Benfield
Edgar D. White
J. E. "Babe" Brock
Robert E. Biggerstaff
D. Ronald Cooper

The church has been blessed to have such leadership. God calls special men for special times in the life of a church. It is obvious as one looks at the unique individual who served as the undershepherd during each time period that God knows what He is doing. C. B. Justice served the church on four different occasions for a total of twelve years. Melrose Huntley served on two different occasions for a total of sixteen years. And Rev. J. E. Brock served for a total of twenty-seven consecutive years.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

Reverend J. M. Webb



Elder James Milton "Jimmy" Webb was pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church when the church was organized July 3, 1852. He served as pastor of the church until his death in 1854. Born October 7, 1802, in the southeastern part of Rutherford County, Jimmy Webb went forward, professed faith and joined Concord Baptist Church on October 12, 1812, when his parents joined by letter. In 1831 he experienced a new birth—salvation by grace—and was baptized into the fellowship of High Shoal Church by Elder John Padgett. Rev. Padgett felt a special spiritual kinship to young Webb, much like that of the apostle Paul for young

Timothy. He instructed him in the faith and began almost immediately to groom him to be his successor.

A presbytery consisting of Elders Alfred Webb, John Padgett, and Joseph Grayson ordained J. M. Webb to the Gospel ministry on July 28, 1833, when he was called as pastor of Concord Baptist Church. In October of 1834, Elder Padgett persuaded him to accept the pastorate of High Shoal Church.

In addition to High Shoal, Concord, and Pleasant Hill, he is known to have served as pastor of Mountain Creek, Bill's Creek, First Broad, Ebenezer, Shelby First, Mount Vernon, Round Hill, and was first pastor of Rutherfordton First Baptist Church in 1851.

Rev. Jimmy Webb was married first to Katherine "Kitty" White on January 19, 1832. Their known children were Sherrod, Toliver, A. D., Charlotte, Elizabeth, Lewis, Wade, Jason, and Julius. After the death of Kitty, he married Nancy Hampton on May 3, 1849. She bore a daughter, Catherine, and two sons—one of whom, George M., became a minister. George Webb was father of Judges James L. E. Yates Webb, and Mrs. O. Max Gardner. Gardner-Webb College was named for this family.

James Milton Webb was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons in 1828, 1830, and 1831. After becoming a minister, he was elected Clerk of Court for Rutherford County and served in that capacity for sixteen years from 1833-1849.

He served as clerk of the Broad River Baptist Association from 1837 through 1841 and was called upon to serve as moderator of the Green River Baptist Association when it was formed in 1841. Rev. Webb was owner and editor of the Rutherfordton Intelligencer from 1841 until 1843.

"He was full six feet in height, of slender, loose build, somewhat stooped, moved awkwardly, had large black eyes protected by long, dark lashes, which seemed to be beaming with unquenchable fire; his mouth large, but thin lipped, his nose thin and straight, and the whole face partaking rather of the bilious temperament. His hair being very black, long and straight, was generally turned on the right side when uncovered," as described in the 1890 history of Mountain Creek Church. Webb was an eloquent preacher, and was considered to be a great example of goodness and reason in his day.

Rev. Jimmy Webb departed this life on April 24, 1854, while serving as pastor at Pleasant Hill. He was buried in the family cemetery near the homeplace two miles east of Rutherfordton, off Highway 64. However, Faye Webb Gardner, wife of Governor O. Max Gardner, and Rev. Webb's granddaughter, later had his remains moved from the family plot to Concord Baptist Church Cemetery near Ellenboro.

Reverend H. Culbreth

Rev. Henry Culbreth served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church from 1854-57. He was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia on February 14, 1793. His parents were Daniel and Jane Culbreth.

He married Miss Edda Bowen in Rutherford County February 12, 1818. Their children were George, Mancil, R. P., and J. H. Culbreth.

Henry Culbreth served as a deacon of Shiloh when that church was organized in 1834. He later served as their pastor and also was supply for High Shoal Church in 1848.

He probably was pastor of other churches, but the information could not be found.

Mrs. Culbreth died June 30, 1861 and Rev. Culbreth died December 23, 1872. Both are buried at the family cemetery in the Gray's Creek community.

Reverend A. J. Cansler



Rev. Alexander Jacob Cansler served as pastor at Pleasant Hill 1857-58. He was born in Lincoln County May 26, 1825. His father, Sheriff Henry Cansler, designed for him to practice law, and with that in mind, young Cansler graduated from UNC in 1847.

On September 7, 1847, he was married to Mary Ann Martin of Wilkes County. She is described as “an amiable, accomplished, devoted Christian lady.” Within the next year, Mr. Cansler came to a personal life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and was baptized by Wade Hill into membership of Salem Church near Lincolnton. He surrendered to the call and was licensed by Salem Church in 1850. Ordained in 1851, he served the next several years as pastor in Lincoln County at Mount Vernon, Lebanon, Salem, Long Creek, Brington, and Sandy Plains. He also pastored at First Baptist in Shelby, and Zion and Bethlehem near King’s Mountain.

Of German descent, Rev. Cansler was personable, humorous, a bit overweight, and—to the dismay of many—smoked a pipe. He was a gifted writer and was

publisher of The Carolina Intelligencer at Shelby for a few years. On several occasions, he was called upon to write circular letters for the Broad River, King's Mountain, and Catawba River Associations.

Rev. Cansler became pastor of First Baptist in Rutherfordton in 1854, but moved to Columbus as first pastor of that church in 1857, while serving at Pleasant Hill. In 1860, while pastor at Mills Spring, the Polk County census showed him living with his wife, Mary Ann, and children: Fanny, Henry, and Mary. He helped with several meetings at State Line and Mountain Creek and preached the Rock Springs Camp Meeting held in a tent in 1862.

A. J. Cansler moved to Arkansas in 1867, and at the time of his death, February 24, 1872, his personal diary recorded over 3000 converts he had baptized.

Reverend William Harrill



Rev. William Harrill served as pastor from 1859-61. He was born at Beaver Dam Creek between Forest City and Shelby on October 1, 1804. On February 17, 1824 he was married to Miss Malinda Elizabeth Bennick. They reared nine children to adulthood, including sons Rev. H. D. Harrill, Martin J. Harrill, G. L. Harrill, B. M. Harrill, and William Pinkney Harrill.

In 1828, William Harrill joined the Concord Baptist Church upon profession of faith. He was licensed to preach by that church the following year and ordained on

January 11, 1833, by a presbytery consisting of J. M. Webb and Alanson Padgett, along with fourteen deacons. Rev. Harrill had a limited education and was blind in one eye, but that did not limit his effectiveness as a preacher. In the Green River Association alone, he baptized 1600 people into the fellowship of the churches.

Whether or not he was pastor at Concord is not clear, but he preached there and did evangelistic work for several years. He became pastor at Bethel in 1847 and also served as pastor of Cool Springs, Ebenezer, Sulphur Springs, Green's Creek, Shiloh, Mount Pleasant, Bill's Creek, Rock Springs, Cane Creek, Mountain Creek, Sandy Springs, Boiling Springs, and other churches in addition to Pleasant Hill.

In 1875, his health had declined to the point that he gave up the active ministry and returned to Cool Springs where he served as Sunday School superintendent until the Sunday before his death. On Thursday, he sent for his son, Rev. H. D. Harrill, and gave directions for his funeral. He said, "Before you get back from your church on Sunday, I will not be alive." On the return of Rev. Harrill from Pleasant Hill on Sunday, March 15, 1886, his father was no more—having died quietly the evening before.

Rev. William Harrill was buried in the Cool Springs Cemetery where the inscription "Sinner Saved by Grace" may be seen on the simple slab that marks his final resting place as a constant sentinel to the remains of one whom historian J. M. Brown described as "one of the purest and best men that ever lived." The prominent Methodist minister, Christenberry Lee, said he was "a true and devoted servant of God."

Reverend W. H. Logan



Rev. William Harrill Logan, who served as pastor at Pleasant Hill 1861-62, was born in Rutherford County January 18, 1825. His parents were Felix and Cynthia Bagwell Logan. His education was of a private nature until age 17 when he began to attend for three years the public schools created in the county. Although this was the extent of his formal education, he was considered one of the most capable preachers and Bible scholars of his day.

He was saved and baptized into the membership of Bill's Creek Church in November, 1846, and was ordained by that church in 1858. He began his first pastorate there in 1859.

William Logan married Rachel Morris of McDowell county in 1852. Their children were: W. F. who died in infancy; B. LaFayette, who moved to Missoula, Montana; John F., who stayed in Rutherford County; and Mary L., who married J. M. Williams of this county. The oldest of those children was only seven when Mrs. Logan died in 1861. Rev. Logan married Mary Bagwell, widow of William O. Bagwell and mother of Stanhope Bagwell, in February of 1862. There were no children born of this marriage.

In addition to Pleasant Hill and Bill's Creek, he also served as pastor of Cooper's Gap, Mountain Creek, Mount Vernon, Montford Cove, Bethel, Bethlehem, Camp Creek, Broad River, Silver Creek, Stone Mountain, Piney Knob,

and Columbus. He baptized more than 1500 people in these churches between 1859 and 1889.

Rev. Logan was active in the affairs of the Green River Association. He was sent as a delegate of Rutherford County to the convention which gave North Carolina its first constitution after the Civil War. Though not considered a politician, he was active in his political party for the good he could accomplish.

He was about 5'10" in height and weighed 180 pounds. His eyes were dark brown and penetrating. He wore a full beard which was black until whitened with advancing years. His countenance was dark, frank and open. He had a full, elegant voice which could reach deep into the soul and far into the crowd when necessary.

Upon the advice of his physician, after 1889 he began to live a peaceful and retired life on his farm at Bill's Creek. On December 13, 1909, he arose early in the morning as had always been his custom. Seated before his fire, he fell from his chair suddenly without a struggle and entered the life invisible.

Reverend Washington Haynes



Rev. Washington Haynes served as pastor of Pleasant Hill between 1862 and 1865. He was born December 2, 1839, in the area of Rutherford County known as Shingle Hollow-Piney Knob, a son of Wilkerson and Elizabeth Keeter Haynes. He was saved and joined Mountain Creek in August, 1857. A year later, in August, 1858, he was licensed by that church. After attending Golden Grove Seminary near Rutherfordton, Rev. Haynes was ordained at Mountain Creek in 1862.

In 1861, soon after the beginning of the Civil War, he joined the 16th Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers and was commissioned staff chaplain. He served in that capacity throughout the war, and in addition to Pleasant Hill, served as pastor of Mountain Creek, Round Hill, and Camp Creek until about 1868.

It was on January 26, 1864, that Washington married Anna Eliza Grayson, daughter of Rev. J. C. Grayson of Rutherfordton. His wife died August 23, 1867, leaving Minnie, an only daughter, who died about 1888 and is buried at Rutherfordton. From 1870 until 1881, he served churches in Haywood County: Bethel, Crab Tree, Jonathan, Pleasant Grove, and Gashes Creek. Early in this time, he took an active part with his family in organizing the Piney Knob Baptist Church near Rutherfordton. On January 9, 1870, he married a widow lady, Keziah H. Osborne, daughter of Elder Thomas Stradley in Haywood.

Rev. Haynes and his wife moved to Buncombe County about 1882 and raised their family there. Rev. Haynes, along with Rev. Stradley and his son Joseph Stradley, purchased land and donated cash to start the Beaverdam Baptist Church in Asheville on April 18, 1884. The church was constituted May 30, 1885. Washington Haynes died in 1931 and is buried in the Beaverdam Cemetery beside his wife, Keziah.

Reverend E. L. Taylor

Rev. Elias Lynch Taylor, who served Pleasant Hill as pastor from 1865-68, was born July 24, 1817. He married Harriet P. Edwards, daughter of Thomas Franklin and Jane Flack Edwards, in 1850, and they raised a family of eight.

E. L. Taylor and his wife became charter members of First Baptist Church in Rutherfordton in 1851. He represented that church at Associational meetings and as a member of presbyteries on several occasions. Rev. Taylor helped organize Pleasant Hill Church in 1852, provided land for the first house of worship, and later donated the property to the church body. He was pastor of the Rock Springs Church in 1872 and probably served as pastor of other churches. He was superintendent of the Pleasant Hill Sunday School for several years between 1870 and 1900.

Rev. Taylor died at his home near Pleasant Hill on February 20, 1903 and was buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Rev. J. M. Walker reported to the Association that "in the death of Elder Taylor, this Association has lost one of its most devoted and consecrated ministers of the Gospel."

Reverend W. D. Lancaster

William Decatur Lancaster served as pastor from 1868-69. He was born in the suburbs of Spartanburg, SC, February 14, 1824, and was saved in 1846. Rev. Lancaster was a son of Allen and Elizabeth Barnette Lancaster and a nephew of William Lancaster, who was clerk of the Broad River Association from its organization up to 1811.

Rev. Decatur Lancaster was married to Miss Rebecca Caroline Padgett, daughter of Rev. Alanson Padgett, on April 11, 1850. He was licensed in October of 1858 by Sandy Springs Church, where he was filling the pulpit. After volunteering into the Confederate Army in 1861 and serving for a short while as a chaplain, a presbytery consisting of S. N. Whitson, H. Culbreth, and A. Padgett ordained him to the full-time Gospel ministry on October 17, 1862.

The Polk County Census of 1870 listed Rev. Lancaster as a Baptist minister, age 46, and his wife, Rebecca, age 37. Their children were Laura Elizabeth, who married Henry Hines; Bassilo Beauregard, who married Florence Meldora Splawn, and was a well-known medical doctor in the Sandy Springs area; Duraspur B., who married a Massey; O. Luther; Leunora; and Zemora M., who married J. E. Prince. All except O. L. and Leunora raised their families in or near Sandy Springs.

Rev. Lancaster returned to Sandy Springs Church as pastor on three occasions. He also served as pastor of the New Pleasant Church near Cowpens, Cooley Springs, and Broad River.

Reverend C. B. Justice



Carr Baylus Justice was pastor 1869-72, 1886-95, and again from September, 1901, through August, 1902. He was born November 4, 1836, in Henderson County, the eldest son of Rev. T. B. and Harriet Bailey Justice. C. B. Justice died December 30, 1909, and was buried at Rutherfordton. He received his education in the common schools and Rutherfordton Male Academy. He was saved in 1851 and joined the Providence Freewill Baptist Church which later associated itself with Mountain Creek Church.

Rev. Justice married Eliza A. Higgins of McDowell County in 1856 by whom were born to him eleven children. Three sons, James D., Mills L., and Charles, as well as a daughter, Annie Justice, survived him at his death. He was never licensed to preach since he believed there was no scriptural authority for the practice. But, he was ordained by the church at Rutherfordton on May 17, 1862, by a presbytery consisting of William Harrill, W. H. Logan, and T. B. Justice.

As a Christian citizen, he was very interested in providing a good education to the youth of the area. The Burnt Chimney Academy at Cool Springs was organized in 1873 with Rev. C. B. Justice and several other Baptist ministers as trustees. He was founder of the Round Hill Academy and from 1900 until 1903, he served three terms on the County School Board.

C. B. Justice was a recognized leader in the Green River Association. The subject of missions was the one ruling thought of his mind. He was appointed to the Foreign Mission Board in the early 1880's and served for more than ten years. His greatest recollection of life was that G. P. Bostick, missionary to China, was converted and baptized under his ministry at Floyd's Creek. His sermons were often stern but heart piercing.

In addition to Pleasant Hill, Rev. Justice served as pastor of Floyd's Creek, Rutherfordton, Columbus, Marion, Smyrna, Liberty, Bethel, Bethlehem, Harmony Grove, Dysartsburg, Montford's Cove, Piney Knob, Cool Springs, and Round Hill. It was "by his untiring efforts and spirituality" that a new house of worship was erected at Pleasant Hill in 1894.

Sources:

Griffin's Essays on North Carolina History
Bill's Creek Baptist Church 200 Year History
Pleasant Hill Church Minutes
Green River Associational Minutes 1890

Reverend J. T. McFaddin

Rev. James Taylor McFaddin served as pastor of Pleasant Hill on three different occasions from 1870 until 1879. He was born October 25, 1832, and died from tuberculosis June 24, 1887.

Pleasant Hill Church ordained Rev. McFaddin on November 28, 1872. The presbytery consisted of Elders A. O. Lynch, A. McMahan, and E. L. Taylor and Deacons Richard Whiteside and Thomas Toms. J. T. McFaddin remained active in the church until his death and was listed

as a delegate or messenger to the Green River Association at least through 1884 and actively promoted Sunday School work of the church and association. It is not known if he served any other church as pastor but his grandson told of travelling with him to preach near Marion on several occasions.

Rev. McFaddin married Elizabeth Radford of Madison County about 1855. They had eleven children, nine of whom lived to adulthood and married: Mary Jane, Sarah Elizabeth, John Stephen, William Lee, Myra who died as an infant, Samuel Edward, Carrie Alice, Thomas Lynch, Annie Laura, Emma Sue, and Zebulon Vance who died young. Most of these children changed the spelling of the name to McFadden.

James Griswold who married Mary Jane, and David Owens, who married Elizabeth, are both buried near their father-in-law in the church cemetery east of the present church building. Both of these daughters married again after the death of their husbands.

Sources:

Pleasant Hill Cemetery Inscriptions
People's Bicentennial History
Green River Association Minutes
*Old Bible and Ordination Certificate
of Mr. George McFadden*

Reverend C. C. Case



Reverend Case served as pastor of Pleasant Hill 1874-75. Columbus Christopher Case was born in Henderson County in 1847, a son of Jonas and Praley McDowell Case. Young "Lum" Case enlisted in the Confederate Army at Camp Vance, NC, on September 25, 1863, and served with Company G, 35th regiment of NC Infantry. He was wounded and sent from the hospital in Richmond, VA, to Greenville, SC, in August, 1864. He was discharged from the Confederate Army in November, 1864.

While in the hospital, Lum Case developed an intense interest in spiritual matters and began to read the Bible. It was during this time that he began to feel called to the Gospel ministry. He married a Miss Morris who died shortly after their only daughter was born. One source said they thought the daughter's name was Alice and that she married a Hutchins and served as postmistress at Chimney Rock.

Preacher Lum was ordained about 1869 and was pastor of the Columbus Baptist Church in 1873. He may have served that church at an earlier date. In addition to Pleasant Hill, he is known to have served as pastor of Green River, Shiloh, Holly Springs, Bethany, Green Creek, Beulah, and Saxon Baptist Churches. Rev. Case was listed as a pastor in the Western North Carolina Convention from 1878-1886 and was a part of the Green River Associ-

ation until 1897. His address was given as Blue Ridge and Columbus during this time.

C .C. Case married Lou Bishop in his early days at Columbus. She was a daughter of Levi and Sallie Ragan Bishop. Lum and Lou had five children: Sallie, Luther, Alonzo, Harvey, and Thomas. Preacher Lum farmed and operated the grist mill at Collinsville, near the present Hickory Grove Community. Mrs. Lou Case ran a boarding house for several years. Rev. Case is said to have traveled to the mountains of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee on many occasions to help with revivals and brush arbor camp meetings. He also preached in the small mill villages of South Carolina. He probably served as pastor of several churches in Spartanburg, Polk, Rutherford, and Henderson Counties between 1873 and 1918. Rev. Case died May 18, 1919, and is buried beside Mrs. Lou Case in the Saxon Cemetery in Spartanburg.

Reverend H. D. Harrill



Cool Springs in August 1865.

H. D. Harrill was born August 20, 1842. He served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from 1879 through 1886. His education was through the common schools and Oak Grove Academy. He served in the 16th Regiment in the Civil War and was wounded at Seven Pines March 24, 1864. The war brought him to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and upon returning, he was baptized by his father at

Rev. Harrill was licensed at Cool Springs March 24, 1870, and ordained February 17, 1872. Other churches he served as pastor are Cool Springs, Cane Creek, Camp Creek, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Fairview in Golden Valley, Bethlehem, Dysartsburg, Round Hill, Adaville, Shiloh, Smith Grove, Bill's Creek, First Broad, Floyd's Creek, Montford's Cove, Mount Olivet, Mt. Vernon, Piney Knob, Pleasant Grove, Bethel (Head of Second Broad, McDowell), Mountain Creek, Southern, Wall's, Camp's Creek, Lavonia, Green River, and Patterson Station.

He was a son of Elder William Harrill and Elizabeth Bennick. H. D. Harrill married Miss Martha B. King on April 22, 1866. Four of their children lived to adulthood. In all early references to Rev. Harrill, his name is spelled Hawson but in later years he was invited back to Pleasant Hill to speak in a special service and his name was spelled Housen.

It was under the pastorate of Rev. Harrill that Pleasant Hill first reported 100 members in 1882. He took an active part in activities of the Green River Association including Temperance and Missions. In 1890, he was described in the Mountain Creek Historical Report as being "punctual, always at his appointments; an earnest, faithful and zealous minister."

Rev. H. D. Harrill died April 21, 1926, and was buried at Cool Springs Cemetery. He is credited with having baptized 1800 converts and having married 500 couples.

Reverend A. J. Hensley

Reverend Albert J. Hensley served as Assistant Pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, fulfilling all the duties of pastor for the year 1895-96. He was ordained by Harmony Grove Baptist Church in 1892. He preached a week long revival at Turkey Cove that year with seven saved and one other addition.

Rev. Hensley was active in Associational affairs. He served as a member of the Committee on Nominations for both the State and Southern Baptist Conventions in 1892 and also preached the Sunday service at the Old Fort colored church in connection with the annual Green River Association.

For the next two years, Rev. Hensley served as pastor of Catawba, Cherry Springs, and Clear Creek Churches. In 1895 he served as a messenger from the Rutherfordton First Church and his address was listed as Rutherfordton rather than Rocky Pass. Rev. Hensley was not listed as a pastor in the Green River Association after 1896.

Reverend W. M. Whiteside



William Marion Whiteside was pastor at Pleasant Hill 1896-1901. Born in Gastonia, NC, December 18, 1877, he was a son of Jonathan Marion Whiteside from Chimney Rock and Rebecca Falls of Gastonia. He was listed as an ordained minister by the Green River Association in 1896 and had accepted his first pastorate at Pleasant Hill that year at the age of 18.

During the next four years, while continuing at Pleasant Hill, he was pastor for at least one year each at Cherry Springs, Dysartsville, Bethlehem in Old Fort, Shiloh, and Mountain Creek.

Rev. Whiteside married Ella Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Wilson of Mills Springs on April 18, 1898. Their children were Marion Dean of Dallas, Texas; Celeste, who married W. B. Denson of Beuna Vista, Virginia; Benjamin Wilson; Betty Donnan; and Valma, who married A. E. Power of Columbia, SC.

While at Wake Forest from 1902-1904, he served some rural churches in Wake County but returned to Columbus for the next two years as principal of the Central Industrial School and was pastor of the Mills Spring and Columbus Churches and also filled the pulpit at Clear Creek in McDowell County.

After serving nine years as pastor of the Green Street Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC, Mr. Whiteside then associated himself with the State Mission Board of South

Carolina for about six years before accepting the position of treasurer and superintendent of the South Carolina Baptist Hospital in Columbia.

Sources:

*Among Southern Baptists, vol. 1, 1937, Ramond, John S.
Pleasant Hill Church Minutes, 1896-1901
Green River Association Minutes, 1896-1905*

Reverend J. M. Walker



Rev. John M. Walker served as pastor of Pleasant Hill 1902-1904. His family lived in the Pleasant Hill community while he was a teenager. Laxton Walker was a brother. Johnny Walker was elected a deacon in 1891. He surrendered to preach in 1892 and enrolled at Wake Forest. The church bought him a book for his studies and helped some with his tuition. Rev. Walker was licensed by Pleasant Hill February 4, 1893.

Other churches he served include Big Level, Silver Creek, Bethany, Camp Creek, Columbus, Pea Ridge, Mills Spring, Cooley Springs, and North Pacolet. During most of this time his address was Columbus, but in 1915 it became Campobello, SC. Rev. Walker was not in the Green River Association after 1918 but is known to have preached for a number of years in the Boiling Springs, NC, area.

Reverend B. M. Hamrick



Barney M. Hamrick served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from November, 1904 through September, 1907. He was born June 22, 1854, and grew up about two miles south of Shiloh. He was saved and surrendered to preach while attending services there. Rev. Hamrick was ordained at Bethany and began his first pastorate at that church in 1897. Other churches he served include Bethel at

Ellenboro, Bill's Creek, Camp Creek, Adaville, Cane Creek, Pleasant Grove, Mt. Pleasant, Cooper's Gap, Cooley Springs, Green River, Green Hill, Piedmont, Spindale First, Mount Olivet, Shiloh, Oak Springs, Mountain View, Mt. Harmony, and Mt. Lebanon, which is the last known church he served in 1929. Rev. Hamrick died July 22, 1931, at the age of 77 and was buried in the Shiloh cemetery.

Rev. Hamrick was married to Caroline Henry. They had three sons and three daughters. The girls all died young without being married. The oldest son, Crayton, married Mattie Jones and raised eleven children. After her death, he married Blanch Crain Tomlin of Spindale and had two daughters. A. G., the second son, married Bessie McBrayer and raised three children. Winnie Barney married Ivory Moore, and they had four daughters and a son.

Before he became a minister, B. M. Hamrick had a store between Shiloh and Holly Springs. He also farmed

most of his life. It was under his leadership that the church building at Bill's Creek was constructed in 1908 and the third building at Shiloh was built in 1910. As a result of the 1910 brush arbor meeting held near the present location of Thompson's Rock Quarry, Rev. Hamrick baptized 94 people in the mill pond on Miller Creek. That pond was built to power Melton's Grist Mill and Millers' Cotton Gin and was used on several occasions by Pleasant Hill for baptismal services. Some of those baptized by Rev. Hamrick became members of Piedmont Church, which was organized in 1914.

Before her death, Carole Poston related an incident which happened in 1916. "My grandfather, Rev. Hamrick received a call from Mr. McFarland near Green River Church. The Hamrick home was on Big Island Road where Leon Roach now lives but was moved by Rev. Bobby Rape to Tom's Lake Road and renovated about 1984. One of his members at Green River had died and the family requested that he come to arrange for the burial. Carole wanted to go, so Rev. Hamrick hitched the horse, Charlie, to a buggy and they set out. Upon coming to the bridge which spanned Broad River a few hundred feet above Poore's Ford, they found a large number of people watching buildings, livestock, and trees being carried downstream by the raging water. Several tried to persuade him of the danger in crossing on the bridge. Rev. Hamrick was determined to go and urged Charlie onto the bridge with a slap of both reins. By the providence of God, two men grabbed the bridle just as the bridge was swept from its foundation by the flood. Rev. Hamrick did not make it to the funeral at Green River, but his own funeral was delayed for fifteen years."

Sources:

Peoples Bicentennial History

Bill's Creek History

Mrs. C. B. Poston, personal interview

Reverend. J. W. Whitley



Rev. Julius Wesley Whitley served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from 1907-1909. He was born April 26, 1879, and was the son of John Wesley and Eunecie Catherine Efird Whitley. He was educated at Big Lick High School, Wake Forest College, and Rochester Seminary. He was ordained July 27, 1907, at Barbee's Grove Baptist Church in the Stanley Association.

Pleasant Hill and Bethel were his first pastorates and he also served Mountain Creek and Pleasant Grove in the Green River Association. Rev. Whitley was principal of the Round Hill Academy at Union Mills from 1907 through 1909.

J. W. Whitley and Lunora Elizabeth Coble were married in 1911. He served for some time in Murfreesboro and later came to Gaston County where he was pastor of the East Gastonia and Sandy Plains Churches. Dr. Whitley then served a long and effective period as pastor of the Loray Baptist Church in Gastonia.

Reverend J. R. Whiteside

Rev. James R. Whiteside served Pleasant Hill as pastor from 1909-1911. He grew up in the Whiteside Valley where Lake Lure is now located. J. R. Whiteside married Mary Logan.

From 1900 until 1907, Mr. Whiteside was clerk of the Whiteside Valley Church which later became Chimney Rock Baptist Church.

Rev. Whiteside was first listed as a minister in 1908. He served Mountain View, Stone Mountain, Bill's Creek, Pleasant Grove, and Rock Springs in addition to Pleasant Hill between then and 1912.

For the next two years he was pastor of Cooley Springs and Buck Creek Baptist Churches in Spartanburg County, SC.

Reverend B. P. Jackson



Rev. Barney P. Jackson was pastor at Pleasant Hill for the years 1912-13. He was first listed as an ordained minister in the Green River Association in 1902 with Post Office given as Myra, Polk County, NC. He appears to have been connected with the Mountain View Church in Polk County but not as pastor.

Rev. Jackson is also known to have been pastor at Big Level,

Beulah, North Pacolet, and Cooley Springs. His address at the time he left Pleasant Hill was Melrose, SC.

Reverend W. F. Sinclair



1902.

Rev. Wade Franklin Sinclair, pastor from 1913-1915, was born August 16, 1883, in Gerton, NC. A son of William and Elizabeth Huntley Sinclair, he was educated in the public schools of Henderson County and received some private tutoring. Rev. Sinclair began preaching at Middle Fork Baptist Church in 1901 and was licensed sometime later. He was married to Miss Jennette Justus August 13,

After being ordained at Inman, South Carolina, December 5, 1913, Rev. Sinclair served Pleasant Hill, Beulah, and Piedmont Baptist Churches. He also served Hooper's Creek, Balfour, Mt. Gilead, French Broad, Calvary, and seventeen other churches in North and South Carolina during his 52 years as an ordained minister. In addition, he was moderator of the Carolina Baptist Association as well as the Western North Carolina Association and served as a missionary to the Cherokee Indians. He was a founder and director of the Faith Christian Day School in Hendersonville and conducted the "Heavenly Sunlight" program on WHKP radio in Hendersonville many years.

At the time of his death September 10, 1965, Rev. Sinclair was survived by his wife, the former Rollie

Mann; a daughter, Ruth S. Gardner; and three sons, Rev. Hubert S. Sinclair, Herbert A., and Frank Sinclair.

Reverend G. A. Martin



Rev. Graham Anderson Martin, Sr. was pastor at Pleasant Hill 1915-16. He was born March 12, 1869 at Mount Airy, NC, and grew up to be a successful businessman. Although he had become quite well-to-do, he found no happiness until he surrendered to preach. After graduating from Wake Forest, his first pastorate was at a church in Chase City, Virginia.

After graduation from Southern Seminary, Rev. Martin was awarded the D.D. degree from North Georgia Baptist College. In 1905, he was married to Miss Huetokah Marshbanks of Mars Hill, NC. They had a daughter, Mrs. Glenn Mann, and a son, G. A. Martin, Jr., who served as U. S. Ambassador to France.

Rev. Martin served as pastor of the Rocky Mount and Spring Hope Baptist Churches in Rocky Mount; First Baptist and Southside in Wilmington; First Baptist, Mount Vernon, and Round Hill, as well as Pleasant Hill in Rutherfordton; First Baptist and East Marion in Marion; First Baptist and Mills Home in Thomasville; First Baptist in Concord, Waynesville, Laurel Springs, Denton, and Roanoke Island, as well as Landrum, SC.

Before retiring and moving to Thomasville in 1946, he did some mission work in Eastern North Carolina. Rev.

Martin died at Baptist Hospital July 24, 1952, and was buried in Holly Hills Cemetery of Thomasville.

Reverend M. M. Huntley



Rev. Melrose Maye Huntley served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from 1916 to 1930 and again from August 1935 until he died in 1937. He was born May 12, 1878, a son of David and Jane Henson Huntley. He married Ida King December 28, 1898. Six children were born: Alpha M. Saine, Rev. Ralph K. Huntley, Ransom L. Huntley, Dorothy H. Hines, Leslie Howard Huntley, and Omega H.

Hines. Rev. Huntley was ordained November 15, 1912, by Adaville Baptist Church.

He served as the first pastor of Mountain View from December, 1915, through December, 1920. He also served as pastor of Adaville, Spindale First, State Line, Lavonia, Trinity, Bethel (Head of Second Broad), Cherokee Creek, Macedonia, Montford Cove, and Spencer, which he organized April 18, 1926.

On August 26, 1923, while serving as pastor of Pleasant Hill, Rev. Huntley started a revival meeting at Green Hill. News of the good preaching spread and pastors from other churches came to give their testimonies. So many were being saved that the services were extended another week. Over thirty were baptized at the close of the meeting. Rev. Huntley died January 14, 1937, and was

buried in the Huntley Family Cemetery south of Rutherfordton.

Sources:

Pleasant Hill Church Minutes
Peoples' Bicentennial History
Lavonia Baptist Church History

Reverend Charles L. Taylor



Rev. Taylor was pastor of Pleasant Hill Church 1930-31. He was born May 27, 1883, in Rowan County. His parents were Rufus A. and Lara Jane Miller Taylor. Educated in the public school system of that county, Rev. Taylor was ordained at Gold Hill, NC, on September 13, 1911.

C. L. Taylor married Miss Nancy Ann Dick on December 13, 1908. They raised five sons: James

David, Ervin C., Jonah F., Hoyle A., and Alvin B. Their only daughter, Effie, married Earl T. Ashford of Charlotte.

During his ministry, Rev. Taylor served a total of 44 different churches. He pastored at Pleasant Hill, Mount Vernon, and Mt. Pleasant in Rutherford County and Center View in Gaston as well as the Marion and Lowell Churches. He was connected with the Rowan, Liberty, Gaston, Catawba River, Blue Ridge, Green River, Sandy Run, and Stanley Associations and pastored in Virginia before retirement.

Rev. Taylor died August 30, 1972, at Baptist Home in Winston-Salem and was buried in Oakboro Cemetery, Oakboro, NC.

Reverend D. J. Hunt



Rev. David Jesse Hunt was pastor at Pleasant Hill 1931-1932. He was born May 6, 1864, on a farm near Jonesboro, Tennessee. Rev. Hunt was converted as a youth in Sunday School and soon surrendered to the Gospel call. He was educated in the public schools of Jonesboro and at Carson-Newman College. Later in life, he completed the Master of Theology degree at Southern Seminary in

Louisville, Kentucky.

Rev. Hunt is said to have been pastor of 28 different churches. Among these were Bethlehem, Chapel Hill near Marion, Green Hill, Round Hill, Cliffside, Bethel in Ellenboro, Montford Cove, Mount Vernon, Bethel (Head of Second Broad), Dysartsburg, Mountain Creek, First Baptist Spindale, Southern, Shiloh, Adaville, and Holly Springs in addition to Pleasant Hill. When roads were too muddy for buggy travel, he would arrive at his preaching appointments on horseback.

He married Miss Julia Livingstone in 1896 while a student at Carson-Newman. When Rev. Hunt arrived at Piney Knob with his wife and daughter, Mary Sue, in 1897 to take charge of the Valley Springs School, he said, "I am looking for a place to plant my life for God." Mary Sue

married Charles Everett and lived in Grover, NC. In 1899 the Round Hill Academy opened under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. D. J. Hunt. Julia Livingstone Hunt died in January, 1902. Rev. Hunt resigned as principal in 1914, but the academy operated until 1925 as a Mountain Mission School of the Home Mission Board.

Rev. Hunt married Miss Geneva Gardin of Glenwood, NC, in 1914. They had eight fruitful years at Cliffside Church and two at Spindale First. Mrs. Hunt died in December 1923. He and the children moved to Glenwood where Mrs. Hunt's parents lived. The four children were Jessie, who married John McCullom of Virginia Beach, VA; David Judson Hunt of Rutherfordton; Sarah, who married Louis M. Cox of Columbia, SC; and Elizabeth, who married William J. Stallings of Spindale.

David Jesse Hunt was described by historian J. M. Brown as "a good pastor who could preach strong sermons on Christian living. He was a great sympathizer, having known sorrow himself. Second, he was a great organizer and leader. Third, as an evangelist he had power to stir up the revival spirit and was gifted in convincing young people to take a stand for Christ. Fourth, he was a great educator, a good teacher, and a unique disciplinarian."

Rev. Hunt died in 1932, while serving as pastor of Pleasant Hill and Holly Springs. He was buried beside his wives in the Glenwood Cemetery. Nearly 1000 people attended his funeral at the Glenwood Baptist Church. Two months earlier, he had deeded all his property to Alexander Schools, Inc., the school for orphans that the Round Hill Academy had become.

Reverend W. C. Lynch



Rev. William Crawford Lynch served as pastor at Pleasant Hill from 1932 through 1935. He was born November 4, 1890, the youngest of six sons of M. K. and Sarah Susan Lynch of the Pleasant Grove community. He grew up on his father's farm and attended the Rutherford County schools, Round Hill Academy, and completed high school at Boiling Springs. He received his A. B. degree at Wake

Forest and the M. A. in Theology from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Between high school and college, he worked as postmaster at Caroleen, NC, and married Miss Nannie Long in 1916. His young wife died after being stricken during the flu epidemic of 1918. He surrendered to the call to the Gospel ministry, resigned his position with the post office, and continued his education. After seminary, he taught at Mars Hill, served the Baptist State Convention in Training Union and Sunday School work with the Sandy Run Association, and taught Bible and Greek at Gardner-Webb. In addition to some churches in Cleveland County, he served as pastor at Pleasant Grove, Mountain Creek, Mount Vernon, and Pleasant Hill.

Rev. Lynch married Miss Alma Putman of Cleveland County, August 7, 1928. She was a school teacher, and Rev. Lynch served as principal of Green Hill School for several years. During this time he was a member of Green

Hill Church. The Lynch family moved their membership to First Baptist of Rutherfordton in 1951.

He was active in Sunday School work in the Green River Association and was Associational Historian at the time of his death. Never a strong man physically, Rev. Lynch was in the hospital several times and underwent surgery at least three times but always kept a bright and cheerful outlook. A leg was amputated in May, 1965, and he never fully recovered.

On June 18, 1965, Rev. Crawford Lynch laid down his trophies and exchanged his cross for a crown.

Rev. Harley L. Phillips



Rev. Harley Phillips served Pleasant Hill as pastor in 1938. He grew up in Columbia, SC, and attended school at Mars Hill. He served as pastor at East Side, now Second Baptist in Rutherfordton, before coming to Pleasant Hill. He also served as pastor of High Shoal Church.

He was an evangelistic preacher and a dedicated soul winner.

Rev. Phillips lived in Jacksonville, Florida, for several years before his death in October, 1981. He conducted revival services all over the southeast. Rev. and Mrs. Phillips had two children, Eugene and Ruth. Mrs. Ruth Hall lives in Marion, NC.

Reverend N. B. Phillips



Rev. N. B. Phillips served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from 1938 through 1941. Rev. Phillips was born May 21, 1876 at Mars Hill in Madison County. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Phillips. Napoleon Bonaparte Phillips used his initials, N. B., throughout life. He was saved at Little Ivy Baptist Church a few days before his twelfth birthday. N. B. Phillips graduated from Mars Hill College

and entered law school at Wake Forest but was called into the ministry just before receiving his degree. Rev. Phillips preached his first sermon at Forks of Ivy Church in Madison County.

Rev. Phillips married Zenora Lee Hunter June 15, 1902. He was appointed a Home Missionary in Bland County, Virginia that same year. In Bland County, he organized three churches and served as pastor of the Clear Fork Baptist Church. After a few years, he returned to Western North Carolina as pastor of the Fairview Baptist Church in Buncombe County and Refuge Baptist in Henderson. He also served as pastor of Barnardsville and Forks of Ivy, as well as some small churches in Madison County.

East Flat Rock Church prospered under his ministry from 1925 until 1963 when he retired. During these years, he also served Morgan Hill, Fletcher, Pacolet, Piedmont, Balfour, Pleasant Hill, Shiloh, Calvary, and Holly Springs Churches.

Eight children were born to Rev. and Mrs. Phillips. They are Clarabel, Walter, Broadus, Edgar, Ruth, Fred, Juanita, and Eugene, who is a well-known judge in the State Court system. Rev. Phillips was an advocate of education. He taught school five years in Madison County and served on the Fairview School Committee for two terms.

N. B. Phillips had a vast knowledge of the Scriptures and was gifted with an articulate and resonate voice. In addition to being an effective pastor, he did evangelistic work throughout the southeast. Rev. Phillips died April 18, 1973.

Reverend R. L. Crawford



R. L. Crawford was pastor at Pleasant Hill from October 1941 through July 1946. He was born on October 26, 1905 to James William and Della Hudgins Crawford near Red Top, NC. He was saved on June 7, 1925. Rev. Crawford was licensed by Spencer Baptist Church and was ordained by Spencer on June 12, 1929. He graduated from Gardner-Webb College.

During his 50 years in the Gospel ministry, he served on 18 fields of work and preached 48 revival meetings outside the churches he served as pastor. Churches he served are Broad River, Harmony Grove, Greenlee, Chapel Hill, Adaville, Cooper's Gap, Green River, Montford Cove, Mt. Olivet, Hicks

Grove, Pisgah, Bethany, Goodes Creek, Lakeview, Sandy Springs, Dysartsville, Shiloh, and Pleasant Hill.

His time at Pleasant Hill spanned the entire duration of World War II. His journal records 132 sermons, 31 people baptized, and 9 funerals at Pleasant Hill. The church paid him an average of \$52 a month while he was pastor. He worked at Spinners Processing to support his family.

Preacher Crawford was married to his wife on October 26, 1925, in Spartanburg, SC. Roosevelt Landrum and Maude Buckner Crawford's first two children died as infants. Their four sons are Ray, Donald, Jimmy, and Larry Crawford; and their daughters are Jolene C. Guffey, Mildred C. Bowlin, and Irene C. Gordon.

A prayer garden at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church is a legacy to R. L. Crawford. The garden altar was originally erected, one rock at a time, in a private place off Highway 221 near Rutherfordton. Each time he said a prayer for anyone, he laid a rock on the altar.

Rev. Crawford died on October 29, 1987. His funeral was at Shiloh, and he is buried at Adaville.

Reverend E. P. White



Rev. Edgar Pinkney White served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from July 1947 until October 1948. He was born October 6, 1887, son of William and Mattie Lewis White of Rutherfordton. He died April 2, 1966, and is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Mr. White was saved at the age of seventeen at Pleasant Hill. He surrendered to the ministry in 1915 about the time he and his wife, Laura Koone

White, were granted letters of dismission to Piedmont Church, where he was ordained. E. P. White was educated at Round Hill Academy, Mars Hill College, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Rev. White taught school several years at Green Hill. He led monthly services at the old Edwards School House before organizing the Oak Springs Church there on November 2, 1919. He served as pastor of Oak Springs on three different occasions between then and 1933. He also served as pastor of Shiloh, Southern, Pleasant Grove, Bill's Creek, Montford Cove, Adaville, Floyd's Creek, High Shoals, Whiteside Valley (Chimney Rock), Pea Ridge, Dysartsville, Bethel, and Mt. Pleasant in Cleveland County.

The family of Pink and Laura White consisted of eight children: Clarence Jay, William Myles, Sarah Mae, Mattie Ruth, John Dee, Ruby Lee, Boyce Rucker, and Joyce Elizabeth. The oldest son, Jay, served as song leader and deacon at Pleasant Hill for many years. A daughter, Mae

W. Taylor, has also remained a faithful member of the church.

Rev. White and his wife were active members at Pleasant Hill from 1927 until 1935 when they joined Southern Church in Ruth. Their membership remained there for the rest of their lives. After a farming accident forced Rev. White to leave Floyd's Creek and the active ministry in 1953, he returned to Southern and served as a deacon. Preacher White paid children a lot of attention and sometimes told them he was a two colored man—"Pink White." The children really loved him.

Reverend J. R. Chapman



James Robert Chapman was pastor of Pleasant Hill from 1948 through 1950. He was born May 24, 1913, in Canton, NC. His parents were Haywood J. and Rebecca Robinson Chapman of Canton in Haywood County. Rev. Chapman was educated in the public schools of Canton, the Clyde High School, and Gardner-Webb College. After surrendering to the call to preach, he was granted a

license by the North Canton Baptist Church in July 1942. Rev. Chapman came to Pleasant Hill as pastor in November 1948 and was ordained by the North Canton Baptist Church on January 21, 1949.

Rev. Chapman was married to Miss Marie Warren in Waynesville, NC. Rev. J. M. Woodward performed the ceremony. The Chapmans have one son, Mr. Jimmy

Chapman. He is married to the former Louise Moore. They reside in Fletcher, NC. He is associated with The Shepherd Thos. and Son Funeral Directors of Hendersonville.

It was during the ministry of Rev. Chapman that the church bought the first church bus, and the church began to consider adding Sunday School rooms to the old building. Rev. Chapman served as pastor of Mountain View Church of Rutherfordton and Second Baptist of Tryon in addition to Pleasant Hill.

Rev. Chapman was active in civic and community affairs. He had established Chapman's Plumbing and Floor Covering in Landrum, SC. His family were members of the First Baptist Church where he had taught the Men's Bible Class for several years before his death. Rev. Chapman died December 23, 1965, at age 52. Mrs. Marie Chapman now resides at her home in Etowah, North Carolina.

Reverend Paul Benfield



Rev. Paul Edward Benfield served as pastor of Pleasant Hill from October 1950 until 1954. A son of Charlie E. and Minnie Benfield, he was born November 21, 1914 in Catawba County, NC. He was married to Miss Virginia Lee Donaldson November 27, 1936, in York, South Carolina. His wife persuaded him to listen to radio broadcasts of Dr. J. Harold Smith as well as of Rev. W. Earl

Armstrong. As a result of these Gospel messages and the personal witness of a neighbor who was his dear friend, Paul Benfield accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour in September of 1939. A short time later, after resisting the call for a few months, he surrendered to preach.

Rev. Benfield was licensed to preach by his pastor at Conover Baptist Church, Rev. Ed Crump, and did evangelistic work for a few years. He was ordained by the Conover Church in 1944 and became their pastor in 1945. While serving at Conover until 1949, Preacher Benfield graduated from Fruitland Bible Institute. After leaving Conover Church, Rev. Benfield received his degree from Gardner-Webb College and then accepted the call to Pleasant Hill.

After leaving Pleasant Hill, Rev. Benfield did interim work for a few years and then served Craig Memorial Church for three years. He now speaks frequently in special services and conducts a regular Thursday night service for senior citizens in the Cedar Glen Apartment Complex. The Benfields are once again active members of the Conover Baptist Church.

Paul and Virginia Benfield have four children: Darrell, Rebecca, Sara Lee, and Steve. All four are Christians. The Benfields have thirteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Rev. and Mrs. Benfield live at Cedar Glen Apartments, #C-17, 210 3rd Avenue, N.E., Conover, NC, 28613.

Reverend E. D. White



Rev. Ed White served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church from 1955 through 1957. He was born in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, April 29, 1907. His parents, James A. and Georgianna Mathis White, also had two daughters and one other son. He was saved at his home in 1933 and later joined the Valley Falls Baptist Church in Valley Falls, SC. he surrendered to preach in 1938 and was licensed by that church on July 17, 1938.

A presbytery consisting of Pastor W. T. Fleming, N. W. Bishop, E. Vermillion, Ray Maynor, C. B. Atkinson, and W. B. Thorne ordained Rev. White on May 11, 1949, at Chesnee Mill Baptist Church in Chesnee, SC. Rev. Edgar Dolphus White came as pastor of Pleasant Hill after serving about two years at the Pea Ridge Baptist Church. Other churches he served include Gray's Creek, Poore's Ford, Harris Baptist, Gilbert Baptist, Beaver Creek in Spruce Pine, Ledger Baptist in Bakersville, as well as Beech Island and Howlandsburg in Aiken County, South Carolina. He retired from the ministry in January, 1989, after serving for a third time at the Harris Baptist Church.

Rev. White is married to Maggie Green White and has three sons: Vernon, Harold, and Eddie and three daughters: Judy, Patsy, and Christine. Rev. White resides at 193 McGinnis Road, Cowpens, South Carolina, 29330.

Reverend J. E. Brock



Rev. Julius Earle "Babe" Brock served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church from May 1958 through May of 1985. His twenty-seven years as pastor is the longest of any pastor at Pleasant Hill. He was born August 13, 1926, in Tryon, NC, son of William Hillary and Julia Fisher Brock. Senator James C. Fisher was his grandfather. Rev. Brock was saved under the preaching of Rev. Maze Jackson.

He joined Second Baptist Church in Tryon and became a faithful member. He served as a Sunday School teacher and as a deacon before surrendering to the call to preach.

"Babe" Brock was licensed by his home church in March of 1957 and Second Baptist also ordained him in May of 1957. His first church was Warrior Mountain Baptist, Saluda, NC. Rev. Brock graduated from Tryon High School and served two years in the United States Navy during World War II. He was married to Mary Hooker on February 17, 1948, in Spartanburg, SC.

The Brocks have two daughters. Shirley Ann married Richard G. Brookshire of Lenoir, NC, and they have one son. Richard and Ann now live in New Canaan, Connecticut. Julia Melinda is married to Don A. Constance of Columbus and their home is in Landrum, SC.

Before he began to preach, Preacher Brock worked with his dad as a paint contractor and with his brother in the dry cleaning business in Tryon. He later worked for the Southern Woven Label Company in Columbus where he

continued to work for a while after becoming a pastor. Rev. Brock graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in March of 1959.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Brock that worship services began to be held every Sunday and prayer meetings every Wednesday evening. The present church building was built, the educational wing was added, the parsonage was built and parking lots graded and paved. Some of the revival speakers included Dr. Percy Ray, Dr. Charles Stanley, Dr. J. Harold Smith, Rev. Bill Billingsley, Rev. Kenneth Ridings, Rev. Paul Ragland, Rev. Bill Bryant, Rev. Billy Kelly, Dr. Manley Beasley, Dr. Hyman Applemen, Rev. Ralph Sexton, Sr., and Rev. Wade Huntley. More than 140 baptisms were recorded during Rev. Brock's ministry.

After poor health forced his retirement in 1985, Rev. Brock stated that his ministry had been rich and the harvest great. His greatest joy came from seeing souls saved and spiritual growth among the members. He said he felt he had been abundantly blessed. While he and his wife had shared many tears of sadness, they had shared many more tears of joy with the church and the fellowship has been sweet.

Reverend Robert Biggerstaff

Robert E. Biggerstaff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Biggerstaff of Ellenboro, NC, was born on July 2, 1932. He married Annie Lou Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Davis, on May 7, 1955, in Gaffney, SC. He and his wife currently reside at Route 1, Forest City, NC. They have two sons. The oldest son, James E. Biggerstaff married Barbara Ann Johnson and they reside in Durham, NC,



with their two daughters, Courtney and Mallory. The youngest son, Mark S. Biggerstaff is married to Elizabeth Ann Glawson and their home is in Forest City.

Robert graduated from Ellenboro High School in 1950. He received the Lord in October 1961 and surrendered to the ministry in February 1967. He began attending Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, NC, that year.

Robert became pastor of the High Shoal Baptist Church in 1968 and was ordained by his home church, Mount Pleasant, June 23, 1968.

From 1973 to 1980, Rev. Biggerstaff served as pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church in Rock Hill, SC. During this time, he participated in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Central Correctional Institution in Columbia, SC. This program prepared him for the position of Chaplain at the Catawba Community Pre-Release Center in Rock Hill, which he held from July 1976 through 1980. After returning home from Rock Hill in August, 1980, Robert and his wife visited several churches and found the members of Pleasant Hill to be loving and caring, so they made their home there.

Robert was elected to serve as associate pastor in January, 1983, due to the illness of Rev. Brock. He considered it an honor to serve with Preacher Brock, and they worked well together as a team. Sunday evening worship services were first begun on a regular basis with Rev. Biggerstaff doing the preaching. He continued to serve the church, fulfilling all the pastoral responsibilities, for a year

after Rev. Brock retired in May, 1985, but resigned in 1986 on the arrival of Rev. Ron Cooper.

Rev. Biggerstaff served as pastor of the Poore's Ford Baptist Church after leaving Pleasant Hill. He and his wife are currently serving the Lord as members of Crestview Baptist Church in Forest City. Mark and Elizabeth Biggerstaff are members at Pleasant Hill.

Reverend Darrell Ronald Cooper



Rev. Ron Cooper is the current pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, having begun his pastorate on Mother's Day in 1986. He was born March 15, 1956 in Valdese, North Carolina. His parents are Kenneth Darrell and Paris Powell Cooper. His mother made sure he attended church from birth. At the age of eight, he responded to an invitation and was baptized. In the fall of 1969, however, while out witnessing with a youth leader, he realized he was lost and had no Life within. That evening, he again read the Scriptures they had used in witnessing. He prayed asking the Lord to save him and he was made a new creation.

At the age of 14, Brother Ronnie surrendered to the call to preach. Later that year, on August 2, 1970, High Peak Baptist Church licensed him to preach the Gospel. In November of 1971, after surgery for a brain tumor, the Lord miraculously healed him and restored his sight.

After graduation from Drexel High School in 1974, God guided Ron Cooper to Columbia Bible College where

he received the B. S. degree in 1979. While in Columbia, the Lord allowed him to meet Deborah Lee Carlson from Chicago, Illinois. They were married August 27, 1977. He received the Master of Divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in May of 1982. He was ordained by Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee on September 29, 1982. Dr. Adrian Rogers gave the charge to "Preach the Word."

From August of 1982 through April of 1986, Rev. Cooper served as Associate Pastor of North Frayser Baptist Church in Memphis. He accepted the call to Pleasant Hill from North Frayser.

One of the greatest blessings of his ministry came in July of 1991 when he made a mission trip to India and had the joy of seeing two young men surrender to plant a church in Agra as a result of a preaching service he led. While at Pleasant Hill, Rev. Cooper has also taught Bible classes at the West Lenoir School of Ministries.

Rev. and Mrs. Cooper have one daughter, Jennifer Joy. She was born October 22, 1986.

IV OTHER CHURCH LEADERS

While it is not possible to identify all the people who have served in leadership positions of the church, the names of many of the Sunday School superintendents, church clerks, and deacons were readily available. While the following lists may not be complete, they have been compiled from the records which were available.

Sunday School Superintendents

E. L. Taylor	James B. Guffey
B. Hill	Mrs. J. D. Whiteside
Edward Foster	Solon L. Taylor
John Toms	W. H. Harris
J. T. McFaddin	Miles White
R. A. Callahan	Lloyd Hensley
J. M. Taylor	T. T. Frady
J. L. Owens	Mrs. E. P. White
M. B. Koone	E. H. Harris
J. L. Hodge	J. C. White
E. Hill	Lee Hodge
J. D. Whiteside	Volley S. Dalton
C. C. Lovelace	Troy Owens
A. P. Hill	Charles Hensley
D. D. Nanney	Jimmy Thompson
W. J. Taylor	Bill Taylor
E. P. White	J. T. Elliott
L. B. Harris	Johnny Taylor

Church Clerks

R. Baker	B. L. White
D. D. Walker	W. J. Taylor
J. L. Green	F. J. Harton
J. L. Owens	L. B. Harris
R. A. Callahan	Joe Koone
G. H. Davis	Davis Taylor
Edmon Bishop	T. T. Frady
John Owens	Miles White
M. B. Koone	Bryan Whiteside
D. T. Nanney	Mamie Whiteside
G. B. Logan	Mrs. Charles Taylor
J. D. Whiteside	Charles O. Taylor
A. C. Lovelace	A. L. Hensley
G. C. Green	Pauline H. Hill
E. P. White	Miss Ola Lovelace
	Becky H. McKelvey

Deacons

E. L. Taylor	Walker Harris
E. M. Lynch	Walter Sane
O. P. Taylor	Lloyd Hensley
M. D. Hill	E. H. Ras Hill
R. A. Callahan	P. P. Lail
John Walker	Norris Harris
John Hodge	G. C. Green
Lawson Owens	John Koone
C. C. Lovelace	Gus Owens
D. D. Nanney	James Thompson
F. A. Sims	Lee Hodge
W. J. Taylor	Deck Hensley
W. W. Camp	Hugh Lynch
W. L. McFaddin	Jay White
John Mathis	Mack Owens
D. C. Nanney	Max Camp
J. F. Harton	Maurice Sane
Jeff D. Whiteside	Chris Sane
Sidney Sims	Volley Dalton
Robert Davis	Clyde Hensley
Bud Taylor	Bill Taylor
J. Lee Taylor	John Nick Camp
John Sane	Charles Hensley
Will O. Taylor	Frank Sane
E. Pink White	David Owens
J. G. Skipper	Chivous Bradley
E. H. Harris	Bob Hensley
T. T. Frady	Dean Dotson
Charles Taylor	Glen Hill
Bryan Whiteside	

